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SPY CAMERAS IN THE CLASSROOM

Union and civil liberties group slam grammar's 'Big Brother' CCTV plans

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

CIVIL liberties groups have attacked a grammar school's decision to install surveillance equipment inside two of its classrooms.

The boys-only Gravesend Grammar confirmed to Kent on Sunday it would be recording selected lessons next year to "help new teachers develop their professional skills".

However, opponents say the scheme shows no respect for privacy and will be of no training benefit because people act unnaturally when they are being filmed.

A spokesman for the human rights group Liberty said: "This is yet another example of using technology just for the sake of it.

"The use of these hi-tech cameras inside schools demonstrates the need for proper regulation of CCTV. What message does this surveillance send our children about respect for privacy? CCTV has its place, but that shouldn't be in the classroom."

The use of cameras to monitor classroom activity appears to be on the rise in the UK, with manufacturer Classwatch reporting that 94 schools have so far leased equipment from the firm.

Most – like St John Fisher in Chatham and New Woodlands in Bromley – are comprehensive or special schools, with high-performing grammars like Gravesend a rarity.

Last year the school, which specialises in maths and computing, saw 96 per cent of its GCSE students achieve at least five A* to C grades including English and maths.

It received 'good' ratings across all areas in its last Ofsted report in 2007, which advised the school to make monitoring procedures more consistent and increase the proportion of both GCSE and A-level pupils reaching the highest grades.

Headteacher Geoffrey Wybar said in a statement: "We have equipped two classrooms with cameras, but these are not yet active. They will help people new to teaching to develop their professional skills by being able to share the best practice available in a realistic context."

Earlier this year a group of students at a comprehensive in Essex walked out of their politics lesson when they learned they were

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Picture: DAVE ROLFE

Proud mum shows off her lovely baby

FOR FULL STORY SEE INSIDE

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Rail firm optimistic of high-speed success as service proves popular

By **ED HILL**
ed.hill@kosmedia.co.uk

HIGH-SPEED preview train services to London have proved so popular the rail operator is considering introducing more from Ashford.

Yet some passengers are still concerned about the effect the new trains will have on standard routes.

Peter Lee, a former vice-chairman of the Rail Users Consultative Committee, said: "People have not realised how much of a downside to existing services there will be when the high-speed service comes in.

"There are going to be numerous problems with overcrowding unless something is done very quickly.

"It is dependant on people moving to the high-speed services."

Yet after a month of the preview service, Southeastern managers are confident the scheme will be a success.

Three morning peak-time services have been running from Ashford to St Pancras, with three return services in the evening.

Over the last four weeks passenger numbers have grown above expectation and the trains have achieved punctuality of more than 99 per cent.

Picture: ADY KERRY

QUICK: Southeastern is pleased with the way the preview service has been received

The train company has even decided to double the length of the 7.48am train to ensure passengers get a seat.

Charles Horton, managing director of Southeastern, said: "We are extremely pleased with the first month of the preview service.

"We have provided an excellent service to our passengers and seen the numbers grow consistently from week to week.

"To be doubling the length of some of our trains in the first week was amazing.

"To achieve such great punctuality is a reflection of the hard work all our staff have put in."

Southeastern says no final decision has been taken on the number of carriages, and other rail experts say it is too early to really get an idea of the new services' impact.

Tunde Olatunji, from campaign group Passenger Focus, said: "If these services materialise then it will be good because it will give people a much better idea of the service come December.

"This is a skeleton service. We still have to see a second, third and fourth wave of passengers before the introduction of the full timetable in December.

"When all the extra trains start running, that is when we will be able to make a real judgement about their success."

'Danger footage could fall into wrong hands'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

being filmed without their permission.

It is not known if Gravesend Grammar consulted with parents or pupils before ordering the equipment.

Ian Toone, senior professional officer for the teachers' union Voice, told KoS he had concerns about the use of cameras in the classroom.

He said: "Using CCTV for security reasons near boundaries or access points, or possibly corridors, is one thing. Installing cameras in the classroom is another.

"Their use implies a lack of trust in the professionalism or conduct of staff and their ability to teach and control the behaviour of children. Neither children nor staff are likely to behave naturally if Big Brother is watching, so providing little feedback for training or behaviour management.

"There is also the danger that footage could fall into the wrong hands. I think most people would find being constantly monitored in this way intrusive and an invasion of privacy."

According to Hertford-based Classwatch, schools pay £1,345 per year for the lease of two cameras in a classroom, including maintenance.

Footage captured on them is password-protected and can be stored for a month.

Mindful

Managing director Angus Drever told KoS: "The need we are addressing covers a number of areas, one of which is that heads are under enormous pressure to improve standards at schools. There are sometimes tremendous consequences if they don't get it right.

"With these cameras teachers can record and review their own lessons to see what worked and what didn't work. They can also view best practice clips from some of their colleagues.

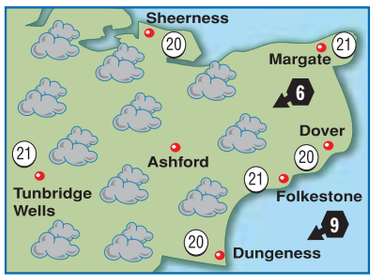
"I've not yet met a head who has used these to get rid of a teacher. They're used to improve them."

A Kent County Council spokesman said the authority played no part in deciding whether or not cameras should be placed inside classrooms.

He said: "For safety and security, many schools have CCTV cameras covering their grounds and some have them in reception areas and restaurants.

"Decisions to put cameras in other parts of the school would need to be made by the headteacher and governing body, mindful of their purpose and the need to inform students, staff and visitors that those cameras exist."

Kent today



TODAY: There will be a few sunny spells, but skies will tend to become increasingly cloudy, perhaps with the odd light shower. Light winds. Max temp 19-22C (66-72F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear spells developing amongst variable cloud amounts. Light westerly winds. Min temp 11-14C (52-57F)

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	showers	18	64	London	cloudy	23	73
Belfast	cloudy	18	64	Liverpool	drizzle	18	64
Birmingham	showers	21	70	Manchester	drizzle	20	68
B'mouth	fair	21	70	Newcastle	showers	20	68
Bristol	fair	18	64	Norwich	fair	22	72
Cardiff	cloudy	19	66	Oxford	cloudy	21	70
Cork	cloudy	17	63	Southsea	cloudy	21	70
Edinburgh	showers	19	66	S'hampton	fair	21	70
Glasgow	rain	18	64	Southport	drizzle	18	64
Isle of Man	cloudy	17	63	Swansea	cloudy	18	64
Leeds	showers	19	66	Torquay	showers	18	64

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5.31am	Sunset	8.30pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	9.14pm	Moonset	9.20am	8.30pm to 5.32am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	01.36	6.3	13.52	6.5	02.04	6.3	14.20	6.5
Margate	02.43	4.4	14.39	4.6	03.12	4.4	15.09	4.6
St Mary's	07.24	5.2	19.41	5.4	07.55	5.2	20.12	5.3

Week ahead

monday Variable cloud. max 22C min 13C

tuesday Sunny spells. max 24C min 14C

wednesday Mainly fine. max 24C min 13C

thursday Sunshine. max 24C min 14C

friday Light showers. max 22C min 13C

saturday Rain clearing. max 22C min 13C

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Kebab court action felt like a 'vendetta'

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knightk@kosmedia.co.uk

A KEBAB shop owner has been left to count the financial and psychological cost of a historic High Court victory over his local council.

For more than three years, Turkish-born George Omer Arslanboga has run the risk of his Sidcup business, Kebab Ye, being closed down because he did not have the correct permission to open a fast-food restaurant.

The 38-year-old father-of-four told Kent on Sunday he felt Bexley council had launched a personal vendetta against him, and the lengthy ordeal had affected his health.

He said: "It's cost more than £40,000 in legal fees and I'm undergoing psychiatric treatment because of the stress. It was the uncertainty about the future and how I was going to pay the mortgage and provide for my family.

"The council came at me with their full artillery, but I couldn't afford a lawyer so had to represent myself until it came to the High Court stage. Then I had to pawn my daughter's laptop and my wife's jewellery to be able to do it.

"I'd hate for someone else to suffer what I've gone through. You can go to prison if you are guilty, but it's a horrible feeling to be treated like a criminal when you've done nothing wrong."

Mr Arslanboga's battle with the council began after he bought the Maidstone Road property – which was previously a retail outlet – in 2004, not realising he needed special permission to reopen it as a kebab shop.

TASTING DEFEAT: Bexley council's High Court challenge ended in failure

Officials tried to close the business down, claiming it was impacting on the "viability and vitality" of the Sidcup neighbourhood and "the living conditions of residents".

However, Mr Arslanboga refused to comply as he felt he had been misled at the time of purchasing the property, and disagreed that his business was causing any harm.

The council took the unusual step of taking the matter to the High Court last week after an independent planning inspector agreed with him, but the appeal was thrown out by Deputy Judge John Howll.

Mr Arslanboga said he was having a hard time celebrating his victory.

He said: "It hasn't sunk in yet because the last three-and-a-half years have been a constant battle and it's very hard to just forget about it. My wife and family keep saying I can cheer up now, but it's difficult to snap out of it.

"I've had a heavy weight on my shoulders and it will take some time to go away."

A Bexley council spokesman said: "We are extremely disappointed with the High Court's decision.

"The council has a responsibility to protect the interests of residents, and people in the area had raised concerns about the nuisance this take-away was causing.

"We take enforcement seriously and this is why action was taken against Mr Arslanboga, for operating his business in breach of planning control.

"He ignored the notices that were served on him for nearly three years and continued trading, despite receiving two convictions for breaches of these notices.

"Our challenge to the inspector's decision reflected, among other things, the broader policy implications."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Murder charges after park attack

TWO teenagers from Orpington have appeared in court accused of murdering a man who was attacked in a London park.

Nadim Gulamhuseinwalla, 32, was assaulted in Green Park, on July 25. He died on Wednesday, 11 days after he was attacked.

Thomas Connor and William Paton, both 19, were also charged with robbery, and City of Westminster magistrates sent the case to the Old Bailey. The pair will remain in custody until they appear again on November 13.

Mr Gulamhuseinwalla, from Central London, was a management consultant.

Huge barn blaze

FORTY firefighters tackled a barn fire in Pluckley, near Ashford, on Friday morning.

Six appliances were used in putting out the blaze, which started at about 9.30am.

A large amount of baled straw was destroyed as crews cooled surrounding buildings to prevent the flames spreading.

Firefighters said it was too early to determine the cause of the blaze.

To see this, search 'Maddocks'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks looks at family days out in Kent that won't break the bank, starting with the Kent Wildlife Trust in Sevenoaks

Dihi's pride and joy

A RARE gorilla has been born at Howletts Wild Animal Park.

The infant – yet to be named – was born to Dihi and joins 52 other gorillas in the park at Bekesbourne, near Canterbury.

Staff say mum Dihi is forming a close bond with her baby, which is less than a month old.

Neil Spooner, Howletts' director, said: "We're delighted that Dihi has given birth to a beautiful baby gorilla, an important addition to our western lowland gorilla family.

"Visitors can see the baby gorilla out and about in the family enclosure with Dihi."

With no more than 100,000 western lowland gorillas remaining in the world, the species could be extinct by 2020 if numbers continue to decline at the present rate.

This is mainly due to deforestation, the ebola virus, and the bush meat trade as the animals continue to be widely eaten in Central Africa.

Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks – which were both founded by the late John Aspinall – play an important role in the successful breeding of captive gorillas, with the two Kent parks housing more than70 western lowland gorillas between them, the largest collection in captivity.

Three of the parks' hand-reared infants were successfully transferred to Gabon last year.

Picture: DAVE ROLFE

CREATURE COMFORTS: Mum Dihi with her new addition to the gorilla collection at Howletts

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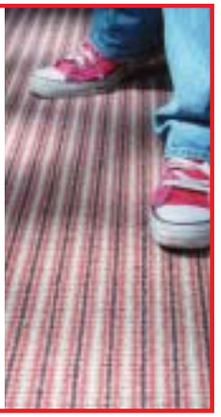

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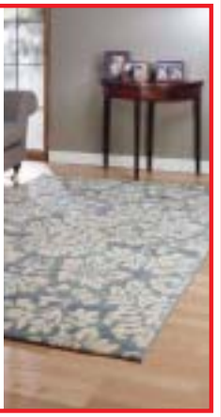

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Would-be mums 'let down' over IVF help

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PRIMARY care trusts that are supposed to offer childless couples three free cycles of IVF treatment are failing to hit the Government's targets, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

According to figures from the Conservative Party, Kent's NHS services offer just two cycles of in vitro fertilisation to couples. But the county's PCTs say they will be offering three cycles of treatment soon.

The Tories said only 80 per cent of UK trusts responded to their requests.

There are three PCTs in the county – West Kent; Medway; and Eastern and Coastal Kent.

Clinical need

The Tories' figures only mention West Kent, but it answered for the whole county, said a spokesman.

In a statement covering all three, the trusts said from April they have been offering two cycles of IVF instead of one.

It said: "This is a significant boost for couples experiencing problems in conceiving. We are working towards increasing this to three cycles. In the autumn, the NHS in Kent will be inviting tenders to provide additional IVF work, and this will help us move towards increasing the number of cycles offered."

Nicky Coffey, associate director of the NHS's South East Coast Specialised Commissioning Group, said: "Work has been undertaken to ensure all eight PCTs across the South East coast offer couples the same access to IVF treatment and follow the same eligibility criteria.

"Since April 1, couples have been entitled, based on clinical judgment, to up to six IUI treatments – intra-uterine insemination – injecting sperm directly into the womb; and two full cycles of IVF or intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI).

"At present, treatment is offered to couples who do not have any children, as we need to focus our resources on those in greatest need. However, this may be reviewed."

The investigation, carried out by Tory MP Grant Shapps, found 80 per cent of PCTs that did respond do not offer three cycles, as they have been required to do since 2004.

The Department of Health said the Tory figures were wrong and 30 per cent of PCTs did meet the standard.

Mr Shapps, who represents Welwyn Hatfield in Herts, claimed it was another example that a postcode lottery exists when it comes to getting medical procedures.

Treatment

Other rules and restrictions on things such age, relationships, and having children already, also vary wildly around the country.

But Mr Shapps, who has three children by IVF, said just 18 per cent of PCTs were offering three cycles, with nearly half only offering one, while just under a third offered two.

A Department of Health official said: "The option to become a parent is something most of us expect to have. People who cannot conceive naturally should have access to NHS treatment, just as they would for any other clinical need."

LUCKY FEW: But some desperate to become parents are being let down

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

New perspective of online journal

A NEW journal covering arts, culture, and politics in Medway is being launched tomorrow.

The Regenerate, founded and edited by Medway writers and artists, will initially appear online as a blog. A print version will follow later.

The journal will include poetry, short stories, photography and fine art alongside articles, reviews and opinion pieces.

"The idea is to capture the spirit of Medway as a place. There's a whole network of creative people who can bring a fresh perspective to bear on local issues," said Philip Kane of the editorial group. "We hope The Regenerate will act as a focus for their ideas and opinions".

You can visit theregenerate.blogspot.com from tomorrow.

To see this, search 'kingfisher' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Kingfisher Medway Trust provides boat trips on the Medway for disadvantaged people. Julie Maddocks joined the crew

White sparrow a rare tweet

TEACHER Kim Williams' surprise at seeing a white bird in her garden turned to amazement when she realised it was a sparrow.

The albino birds are rare, said an RSBP official: "We sometimes see small birds with several tones along with white, but to have one white all over is incredibly rare."

Mrs Williams, 44, of Faversham, said: "I was looking out of the window on Wednesday morning when I saw this little bird hopping around.

"It was next to a white wall and almost blended in. It was the movement that caught my eye.

"I watched it for a while. I know doves are white, but they're much bigger, so I thought it might be a fledgling. But then it moved a little closer and I could see it was a sparrow.

"I dashed upstairs, grabbed my camera and managed to take two shots before it flew off.

Pictures: KIM WILLIAMS

RARE BIRD: This all-white sparrow was seen in Faversham

"Looking it up on the internet, I saw that all-white sparrows are very rare. I feel quite privileged to have had one in my garden.

"My son Alex, who is 11, was delighted at seeing the pictures. He was in bed at the time and missed the excitement."

The RSPB's Hester Phillips said: "We hear of these once in a while, but it's rare to have one that's all white. Sparrows with a bit of a mix of colours are slightly more common.

"Mrs Williams was good enough to send her shots to us, and they caused quite a bit of excitement in the office – everyone wanted to see them.

"It's great that people recognise the significance of these sightings and are able to get nice pictures without disturbing the birds. It must have been a nice experience for Mrs Williams to see this in her garden."

Arrest following blaze at hotel

A MAN has been arrested in connection with a blaze that tore through the Moorings Hotel in Sevenoaks on Thursday night.

Four engines from the Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Seal and Borough Green stations attended the fire at about 11.25pm, after reports there may have been people trapped inside the three-storey building.

However, everyone was accounted for and there were no casualties.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's investigation and research team is helping police establish how the fire started.

Kent-born comic vows to keep shocking viewers with his hit Channel 4 show

Bishop is unrepentant about his divine comedy

CONTROVERSIAL comic Kevin Bishop says he is more than happy offending people as long as his television sketch show continues to draw high ratings.

The Bromley-born star, 29, is gaining a reputation for his near-the-knuckle style of comedy, which has so far seen him dress up as a stereotypical black rapper, a police detective-turned-rapist and countless other oddball characters.

However, Bishop admitted to Kent on Sunday that he does not care if his Friday night show – the second series of which is currently being screened on Channel 4 – causes offence.

He said: "We get lots of complaints all the time. It's not what we want and it's not what we set out to achieve, but that's what happens when you do a show that divides people down the middle.

"It's nice to be in a market where the people who watch are more open-minded. We feel that what we are doing is original, so the more complaints the better really. If people don't like it they can change the channel, and so what if it offends them anyway? It's not as if they're going to die because of it."

Memories

The Kevin Bishop Show features about 50 sketches per episode, with each sketch featuring a bizarre take on one of the many television programmes available to view on Sky Digital.

Bishop said: "The first series was a massive experiment because we were trying to do something a bit different.

"Channel 4 said they wanted a sketch show so we knew we had to be original because it's such a saturated market and there are so many good ones out there at the moment.

"We didn't really know if it would work, but as soon as they saw the pilot they said 'yes please', which was obviously great news. There have been whisperings of a third series too."

Born in Orpington on June 18, 1980,

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Bishop attended the Bromley-based Patricia Hammond School of Dramatic Art from the age of six and was also a student at both Ravens Wood School and Coopers Technology College.

He starred in Grange Hill when he was just 14 and also played Jim Hawkins in the 1996 movie Muppet Treasure Island.

Bishop said: "I lived in Orpington until I left home at 21, but my parents still live there in the same house so I go back all the time. I love the road I lived in and the house – I have a lot of great memories of the place.

"I started going to drama club for a bit of fun and I ended up wanting to do more and more, and fortunately I got my break with Grange Hill. A lot of people ask me if I'm done with serious acting now that I've been successful with comedy, but I would like to go back to it one day.

"The fun of this business is all about the challenge. Comedy was and still is a big challenge for me though, and it's a lovely way to earn a living so I'm happy for the time being."

Bishop hit the headlines last year due to his drunken antics at the British Comedy Awards, during which he threw food and drink at the cast of The Inbetweeners as they accepted the gong for Best New Comedy.

He also swore loudly during a pre-recorded Ricky Gervais acceptance speech.

However, the comic told KoS the whole episode had been blown out of proportion.

He said: "I don't regret it at all. It was only meant as a laugh and I'm friends with the guys from The Inbetweeners anyway. It's such a tiny industry that most of us have all worked together at least once or twice.

"It must have looked like we were disappointed not to have won, but it wasn't like that at all – we were just having a laugh.

"We were drunk and it seemed like a good idea at the time. I'll probably do something similar again this year."

KEVIN'S STARRING ROLES

HIS ALTER EGOS: Bishop plays a variety of stars in his Channel 4 show including 1) Brad Pitt, 2) Simon Cowell; 3) Heston Blumenthal and 4) Gok Wan

Pictures: Channel 4

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Swine flu infection shows a drop

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Virus may have 'had its fill of us for now' says top doc

THE number of patients prescribed antivirals for swine flu in west Kent has dropped by more than 80 per cent in seven days.

It comes as Sir Liam Donaldson, the country's chief medical officer, announced that the first phase of swine flu could have reached its peak.

He said there was a possibility the H1N1 virus has "had its fill of us for the moment", but the NHS is still preparing for a large surge in swine flu patients in the autumn.

NHS West Kent said the number of antivirals collected in the area had decreased from 698 on July 27, to only 131 on August 2.

Sharon Jones, the primary care trust's flu 'tsar', said: "There has been a steady drop and it has been the same across most of the country. The Health Protection Agency weekly report shows the overall number of cases has slightly risen, but the rate of actual infection is slowing."

She said the PCT was prepared for an increase in cases in the autumn after the schools go back in September and the seasonal flu period begins.

"Hand hygiene really is simple, but effective," she added. "We are strongly encouraging people to use the flu line where possible to release the GPs to look after the really sick patients.

"People with temperatures under 38°C and not at risk do not need Tamiflu and the advice is to stay at home, relax and take paracetamol-based remedies.

"It is still a mild illness for most people."

In east Kent the number of people with swine flu-like symptoms has continued to rise, said NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's assistant director of public health, Sandro Limentani.

He said: "The chief medical officer has confirmed that across England there had been no worsening in the severity of the pandemic and that the peak of wave one of the virus may now have been reached.

"However, this situation could change and we would like to reassure people that we have robust plans in place to deal with any increase in numbers."

There have been no confirmed deaths from swine flu in Kent, but nationally there have been 27.

In east Kent the GP consultation rate for flu-like illness was 192.6 per 100,000 of the population, for the week commencing July 20.

The age groups most affected are still young adults and children.

People with swine flu symptoms should contact their GP if they have a serious underlying illness, are pregnant, have a sick child under the age of one, their conditions gets much worse and if their condition is still getting worse after a week. Other people with swine flu symptoms should use the National Pandemic Flu Service which can be accessed at www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu and on 0800 1 513 100.

If users are diagnosed with swine flu they will be given a unique authorisation number that a 'flu friend' (a friend or relative without swine flu) can use to pick up antivirals from one of the 157 collection points around Kent.

General advice and information can be found at www.hpa.org.uk.

Victim's bravery sentences paedophile to jail

A PAEDOPHILE who admitted repeatedly raping a young boy over a long period of time has been sentenced to six years in prison.

Ivor Jones, 46, of Danes Hill, Sittingbourne, pleaded guilty to rape, three counts of indecency with the child, indecent assault and two other sexual offences. The attacks took place in the early 1980s when the boy was aged between four and nine.

The attacks only recently came to light when the victim, now an adult, reported his ordeal at the hands of Jones to police.

During sentencing this week at Maidstone Crown Court, Judge O'Mahoney reduced unemployed Jones' jail term from nine to six years after he pleaded guilty, acknowledging this meant his victim would not have to go through the strain of a full trial.

The judge said: "This abuse has had a terrible impact on his life – he has suffered great effects as a result of your abuse. These were nightmare childhood experiences for which you were responsible.

"You realised what you were doing and the only real mitigation was your guilty plea."

Det Con John Milham of Sittingbourne's Child Protection Unit, said: "I would like to pay tribute to the victim who, after many years, was able to find the courage to approach Child Protection Officers from Kent Police and tell us what he had been subjected to, his main motivation being that other young children be protected from Jones.

"I would like to encourage others, who have suffered abuse, even if it was years ago, to approach the police."

Jones will be subject to a sexual offences prevention order for 10 years and will have to sign on the sex offenders' register for life.

PAEDOPHILE: Ivor Jones

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Brazil jail hell of Brit 'fraudsters'

A BACKPACKER accused of committing holiday insurance fraud has spoken of her nightmare six-day stretch inside two dangerous Brazilian prisons.

Shanti Andrews, 23, from Tunbridge Wells, and her travel companion Becky Turner, 23, from Berkshire, told police they lost expensive items when they were robbed while travelling through Rio de Janeiro on a bus.

But when officers later found the articles in the women's locker at their hostel, they were hauled off to a rat-infested prison that houses drug-traffickers, robbers and murderers.

Speaking to a national newspaper, law student Ms Andrews told how prisoners were packed in so tight that they could not roll over while trying to sleep.

'Terrible'

She said: "The woman who slept between us had been charged with murder. There was one shower but it only had a trickle of water and one day there was no water at all. There was one toilet that didn't flush. The smell was terrible, worse than anything you can imagine."

Before their release the girls were transferred to another prison – Bangu – for one night. "We thought we were at the gates of hell," Ms Andrews said. "There were women inmates who had been assigned to clean the area. They had shaved heads and looked like boys with their tattoos and piercings.

"They were leering at us and making obscene gestures. At the other prison women kept asking if we were lesbians."

Despite neither entering pleas at a hearing on Wednesday, their lawyer said they would be admitting attempted insurance fraud and he hoped they would evade prison sentences.

The former University of Sussex students were bailed to a hotel in Rio, where they must remain until their trial on August 17.

Battle continues in port's George Cross campaign

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE battle to award Dover a George Cross for its residents' bravery during World War Two continues, despite a Government rejection of the idea two years ago.

The Kent on Sunday-backed campaign also has support from forces' sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn, Labour Party deputy leader Harriet Harman, Dover and Deal MP Gwyn Prosser and a former adviser to Margaret Thatcher, Viscount Monckton of Brenchley.

The Ceremonial Secretariat said the idea "would not be entertained" as too much time has passed.

Yet those behind the campaign are continuing to gather support and are to hold a series of events to boost awareness.

Terry Cleaver, from the Dover George Cross Campaign said: "We are raising money to create a memorial garden in remembrance of the 200 Dover civilians who were killed by enemy action

"We held an air raid weekend in April, when three members stayed in Dover's Grand Shaft recreating wartime conditions, living on rations with displays relating to 1940s life.

"We are also producing a DVD of memories to raise funds for the campaign and to educate people about the town's wartime role. This is in conjunction with a leaflet based on walks in the town telling people about Dover's World War Two history.

"We want to create a memorial to those who died while also making sure the memories are not forgotten. The campaign wants the George Cross awarded to Dover in recognition of all those who fell during both world wars. Only one place has been awarded the medal – and that is Malta."

FIGHTING SPIRIT: Dover's George Cross campaign is backed by Dame Vera Lynn

On August 21, campaigners are also staging a play at Dover town hall, called It Ain't 'Alf Dover, Dad, set in a PoW camp near the end of World War Two.

Mr Cleaver said: "The play will include comedy, music and memories of Dover during World War Two as well as a 1940s-style performance by local singer Kaz.

"This will raise funds for our projects. We will also be holding a raffle on the night."

They still need volunteer actors and stage hands. The same night there will be a performance by Deal folk-rock band The Dealers.

Dover was known as Hellfire Corner during the war. It was the only British town to suffer near-constant bombardment from Nazi artillery in France. As well as the 200 residents who died, many more were hurt, and hundreds of buildings were damaged or destroyed.

Dame Vera, 90, has said previously: "It's important to honour Dover not only because of the victims of what was going on, who went through so much, but also because it is such a landmark, a symbol of hope for the whole country.

"It holds a special place in my heart because of my song, White Cliffs of Dover, and what it meant to the boys who were leaving and hoping to come back. I definitely think it should be awarded the George Cross."

Campaigning for the town to be awarded the George Cross started 1944, when Lord Mayor of London Sir Frank Alexander wrote to the Mayor of Dover saying it deserved the honour.

For more information and tickets for the play, phone 01304 204211.

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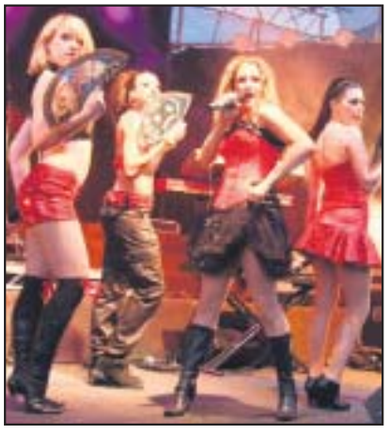

DOLLED UP: The Superdolls will entertain at the Dave Lee Celebrity Golf Classic

Superdolls stop by for tee

GIRL band The Superdolls have agreed to perform at a charity golf tournament in October, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

It is being run by Kent comedian Dave Lee and more teams are needed to help raise cash for his Happy Holidays charity, which sends disabled, sick and underprivileged children on trips of a lifetime.

Superdolls singer Verity Rae Martin said: "This is a fabulous project to support. Happy Holidays is so worthwhile. We urge anyone who enjoys a round of golf to get on board."

Verity, 27, from Gravesend, added: "We love performing and promise a great show. But it's the serious business of helping youngsters that attracted us to this gig.

"I know Dave Lee and have worked with him before, so I was so pleased when he asked if we wanted to sing at this show."

Dave said: "They're a great bunch of girls and guaranteed to put on a fabulous show. But we need more teams to play in the tournament. Anyone is welcome to join us."

His Happy Holidays charity has raised more than £1.8 million over the last 15 years and has sent 40,000 people on dream trips.

The Dave Lee Celebrity Golf Classic is being relaunched, with backing from KOS Media, at the London Golf Club at Ash, near Brands Hatch – home of the European Open – on Sunday, October 4. In the past, the likes of Jim Davidson, Jimmy Tarbuck, Shane Ritchie, Rick Wakeman, Matt Dawson and Harry Redknapp have played in the tournament.

Teams are three-strong and potential entrants can contact charity chairman Kevin Aylward on 01732 456 505. Spectators are welcome, with adult tickets costing £5 including programme. Under-16s go free. For more details, visit happyholidays.moonfruit.com.

To see this clip search 'Lee' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

OF COURSE: Celebrities including former EastEnders actor Shaun Williamson offer their support for the golf day.

Prison drugs gang is jailed

FIVE men, including two inmates, have been sentenced to a total of 15 years for conspiracy to supply drugs and prohibited items at Elmley prison on the Isle of Sheppey.

Stewart Jarman, 25, and Warren Shaw, 25, both of whom are serving sentences at the jail, were each given three years to be added to their original sentences.

Sean McCann, 24, of Prestedge Avenue, Ramsgate, and Anthony Jarman, 27, of Nixon Avenue, Ramsgate, were also sentenced to three years.

Conspiracy

Alan Shaw, 51, of Ellen Avenue, Ramsgate, who was also charged with production of cannabis and possession of a class B drug, was sentenced to three years for conspiracy to supply drugs and conspiracy to convey prohibited items into prisons.

He also received an additional six months for producing cannabis and 12 months for supplying drugs, both to run concurrently to the three-year sentence.

All five pleaded guilty at Canterbury Crown Court on June 29. They were sentenced on Monday.

Officers arrested and charged the men in April after a week-long investigation by Kent Police and HMP Elmley's security department.

Investigations uncovered how the men had conspired via the prison telephone system to import Class B drugs and other prohibited articles into the prison.

Sentencing, Judge Adele Williams said: "This was an organised and deliberate conspiracy and each person was equally to blame."

More than 20 police officers and prison service staff took part in the investigation. Det Ch Supt Mark Powell said: "Officers in the serious organised crime unit worked closely with the prison service to bring these people before the courts.

"The sentencing reflects the serious nature of their crimes. We will continue to work with the prison service to help disrupt the drug supply within jails."

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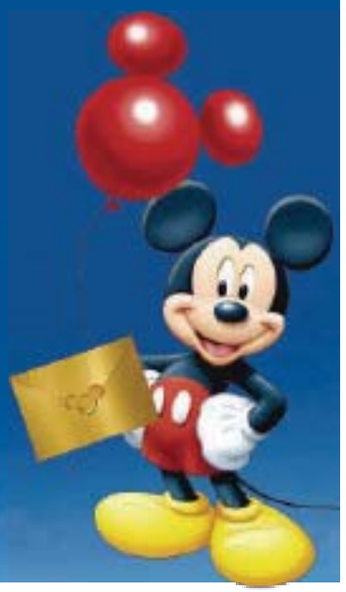

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Starts on page 55

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Hostess exposé leads author into tragic tale of Lucie's death

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE tragic tale of murdered Lucie Blackman has been retold as part of an exposé into Japan's controversial hostess industry.

Former Sevenoaks schoolgirl Lucie was just 21 when she was drugged, raped and beheaded by Tokyo businessman Joji Obara in June, 2000.

Months later her mutilated body was found buried beneath a bathtub in a seaside cave, just a few hundred metres from where Obara – who had paid her to go on a date with him – lived.

While conducting research for her book Tokyo Hostess, author and journalist Clare Campbell visited many bars similar to the one named Casablanca where Lucie, a former flight attendant, worked.

Mrs Campbell told Kent on Sunday she thought people would be surprised to learn what really went on at such nightspots.

She said: "A lot of the people I've spoken to back home seem to think that being a hostess is similar to being a prostitute, which it isn't at all. It's not even like being a lap-dancer or an escort – it's a totally different culture out there.

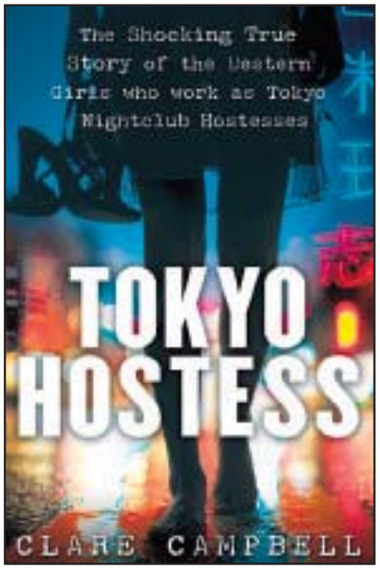
"A lot of the girls who do it are actually highly-educated and double as English language teachers. They just become hostesses because they want to make some more money.

"The whole culture is fascinating. What got to Lucie was the fact that at the clubs you get picked on the basis of looks or the ability to chat. If you don't get picked then you get marked down by the club you work for.

"Lucie's story is so interesting because she was the key really to everything. If Obara hadn't got to her then nobody would have found out about the other girls he drugged and raped. He was doing it all the time.

"Her story also encapsulates such a lot and when I read the entries in her diary it really drove home what a tragedy it was.

"She had all the worries other girls her age did, like if she had a spot or was feeling down about her love life."



SAD ENDING: Author Clare Campbell (left) spent some time with Lucie Blackman's father Tim while working on her new book Tokyo Hostess

Mrs Campbell – who is a regular contributor for the Daily Mail – decided to write Tokyo Hostess after being assigned by Marie Claire magazine to pen an article on another of Obara's victims, Carita Ridgeway.

Lucie Blackman

She said: "Lucie's mother said she would find it too distressing to help me with the book, but her father Tim agreed straight away and we met several times.

"He let me take all his documents including all the emails that were sent and all the paperwork from the Foreign Office and the police.

"I think he understands that other parents of girls would be worried and he doesn't want the same thing to happen to anyone else's children. He told me he has distanced himself from the horrific way Lucie's body was discovered, but I don't think his ex-wife can. She still thinks about it when she wakes up every morning."

• ***Tokyo Hostess – published through Sphere – is available now priced £14.99.***

Council left fielding calls after farmer's 'green' intentions make the public sick

PEOPLE were vomiting in the streets of the Isle of Sheppey after a foul pong spread across the island, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

It was blamed on a Leysdown farmer dressing his fields with sewage as he prepared for the next harvest.

But the odour from the 'green' fertiliser is particularly strong this year – so bad in fact there are reports some people simply can't stomach it and are literally being sick.

Swale Borough Council was bombarded with more than 100 complaints, prompting the authority to issue a warning about the smell, but also to reassure people it will subside within days.

Many people told the council they couldn't face going out.

There have been two types of slurry spread in recent days.

One is a paper and sewage sludge, which was smelly, but did not cause too much concern.

The second is a lime-treated sewage sludge produced by Thames Water, and it's this that caused the problems, said Swale council.

A spokesman for the council said: "Our officers have been going there on a daily basis to ensure it's quickly mixed into soil to eradicate the smell faster.

"The one farmer that was using this sludge has done nothing wrong, but we are talking to all the farmers in the area."

He said the farmer did not want to speak to the media.

The spokesman stressed the substances have been checked by the Environment Agency and nothing illegal or dangerous has been used, it just produces an appalling pong.

Peter Godspeed, the owner of Leysdown Chalet Services, said: "It is foul and it is so strong. I live in the country and we have had bad smells before.

"We live with them, but unfortunately this smell has been something unusually different, exceptionally strong, and very pungent and acrid and not very pleasant at all."

Thames Water spokesman Simon Evans, said: "We're really sorry for the smell.

Spreading sewage sludge – a bi-product of the sewage treatment process – rarely causes this sort of problem, but in this case recent weather, in particular wind direction, led to more odour issues than usual.

"Since receiving complaints, we've used a spray to limit the smell and will be reviewing our future recycling operations to try to prevent this happening again."

Fund set up in name of four-year-old lost to rare cancer delighted by generous support

SADLY MISSED: Molly Bubb

A CHARITY set up in memory of a child who died last October from a rare form of cancer has already raised more than £40,000, ***writes Steve Knight***.

The tragic story of four-year-old Molly Bubb has struck a chord with the people of Kent who have dug deep to help swell the coffers of the fund established in her name.

Molly's life was brought to a premature end when, less than three weeks after displaying the first symptoms, she was killed by the aggressive brain stem cancer Atypical Teratoid Rhaboid Tumour.

The youngster's parents Kerry and Ashley have since made it their mission to help fund research and raise awareness of the illness, which doctors did not diagnose until it was too late.

Mum Kerry, from Canterbury, said: "The Molly Bubb Fund hasn't even been going a year yet and we've already raised about £44,000, which is just great.

"It's run by a small committee of family and friends and we're so grateful for the money we have received so far, it's been excellent.

"We never imagined we would get this far. I remember sitting down at our first meeting and saying I wanted to raise £10,000 in a year, and everyone looked at me as if I was mad.

"They told me we needed to keep our feet on the ground, so to beat that target by so much is just amazing."

Grange Hill

Events that have so far raised money for the Molly Bubb Fund include a football match, a sponsored climb of the tallest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales, and a Grange Hill disco attended by former star Lee 'Zammo' MacDonald.

A donation of £500 was also made by KOS Media following last year's Kent Kids for Christmas appeal, where proceeds from sales of Kent on Sunday were distributed to several local charities.

On Saturday, August 29, the fund is holding a dinner and dance at the King's Hall in Herne Bay, which will also feature a raffle with a top prize of £1,000.

Tickets are £25 each and doors open at 7pm.

Kerry said of her daughter: "Molly was a very lively and happy little girl. She was always on the go and everything had to be done at 100mph.

"She had just started school in the September before she died and loved being a 'big girl'.

"I think we are all still in shock really because she was only ill for three weeks, and we only knew she had cancer for three days, so it was absolutely devastating.

"In the UK it takes twice as long to diagnose brain tumours on a child than it does in Poland or Israel, and that needs to be put right. I think we'll be doing this for years because more money will always be needed for research."

To book tickets for the dinner and dance, call Kerry on 01227 711623 or Clare on 07776 361538. Alternatively email mollybubbfund@hotmail.com.

Hundreds sign anti-coal protest

VETERAN MP Bob Marshall-Andrews will take anti-coal campaigners' concerns to the very top next week when he hands a petition to Climate Minister Ed Miliband.

The Labour MP for Rochester and Strood, will present the petition to Mr Miliband on Wednesday, August 12.

It has been signed by more than 1,600 residents, all of whom oppose E.ON's plans to build two new coal-fired units at the Kingsnorth power plant.

Mr Marshall-Andrews QC said he was against the proposals.

"Not only would dirty new Kingsnorth coal make it virtually impossible for the UK to reach its carbon emissions reductions targets, it would leave us in a very weak position when it comes to influencing the hugely important climate change talks at Copenhagen in December," he said.

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£300,000 swindle

AN ACCOUNTS manager helped herself to more than £300,000 from a building firm's funds – and nobody noticed.

Hayley Mwemi-Harris, 25, of Hyde Place, Aylesham, milked the money from construction company RJ Perry, of Faversham, for three years until she was caught late last year.

She pleaded guilty to three counts of obtaining money by deception, and one of fraud, at Maidstone Crown Court this week.

Mwemi-Harris asked for 34 other offences to be taken into consideration.

Judge Douglas Moore remanded her in custody for a month for probation and psychiatric reports.

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WINNING WAYS: Catriona will go on to take part in Miss UK Galaxy

New Miss Kent Galaxy proud to put brains before beauty

By STEVE KNIGHT

MISS Kent Galaxy winner Catriona Robson has made it her mission to dispel the negative stereotypes associated with beauty pageants.

The 21-year-old from Ashford, is currently studying for a bachelor's degree in international relations through the Open University, and told Kent on Sunday that she thought such competitions help empower women.

She said: "Having met a lot of beauty contestants I think people would be surprised to find that most of them either have degrees or are halfway through their university courses, and are often incredible businesswomen with amazing leadership skills.

"The women in these competitions want to show themselves as leaders and have to show a great deal of determination and self-discipline to get into the finals.

"Quite often they represent incredibly worthwhile causes and charities and devote their lives to helping others.

"I did not have any misgivings on entering this pageant and judge it as an incredible once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I should make the most of – and I encourage others to do the same."

Crowned Miss Kent Galaxy at a ceremony late last month, former Highworth Grammar School pupil Catriona will now compete for the title of Miss UK Galaxy next March.

Should she be victorious again she will go on to the Miss Galaxy International event to be staged in Miami, Florida.

As well as challenging the myth that beauty comes before brains at such competitions, Catriona said she also wanted to prove that participants did not need to be a certain body-shape to stand a chance of winning.

Attitude

She said: "I am not the generic size-zero model and I am determined to represent the curvaceous and intelligent women of this country and prove that beauty should be judged not only on your looks, but by your personality, your intelligence and your actions in life.

"For as long as I can remember I have had so much drive and so many ambitions that it is sometimes hard to imagine being able to fulfil them all in a lifetime.

"However, I have an incredibly positive attitude, and approach each day as a gift.

"This attitude allows me to make the most of all the opportunities out there and to live my life to the full, along with helping others to do so also.

"I really feel I can make a difference with my title as Miss Kent Galaxy and encourage other aspiring individuals to be confident and follow their dreams."

Part of Catriona's role as Miss Kent Galaxy is to make appearances at all types of events throughout the county. Email misskentgalaxy2010@yahoo.co.uk to book her.

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	was	SALE	BLUE X
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Online cookery a recipe for success says top TV chef

CELEBRITY chef Richard Phillips has launched a new internet television show to demonstrate how Kent's finest produce can be best utilised.

The six-part Made in Great Britain series offers hints and tips to aspiring cooks and is available to download for free at www.pod3.tv.

Phillips, who stars in the current ITV1 series Daily Cooks Challenge, told Kent on Sunday internet television was the way forward.

He said: "It's TV at any time that you can watch, wherever and whenever you want to, and that lends itself very well to cookery shows. People can pause and rewind as they follow along to the recipes on their laptops.

"I still have one more episode to film, but I'm very pleased with how the series has turned out so far."

Among the locations filmed for Made in Great Britain were a potato farm in Tenterden and a flour mill in Canterbury.

Phillips, a keen supporter of KOS Media's Food for Kent campaign, also spent time picking Kentish apples and mushrooms while also travelling further afield to Rye, East Sussex, where boats sailed in with fresh supplies of scallops.

He said: "I think it's important to support the local economy and local farmers because we all need to stick together, especially during these tough times. Having said that, I won't go local just for the sake of it. The produce still needs to be of a high quality because if it isn't then I have no problem looking elsewhere."

Phillips currently owns three restaurants in Kent – Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells, Hengist in Aylesford, and Richard Phillips at Chapel Down, Tenterden.

• *See page 31 for more on our Food For Kent campaign.*

Two Tone is still carping on after all these years

AS BRITAIN'S fishermen mourn the death of Benson the carp, the country's biggest specimen is still thriving in a Kent lake, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Weighing in at a hefty 67lbs 14oz Two Tone, as the carp is known, continues to grow at Conningbrook Lake in Willesborough.

The world of angling has gone into shock after it emerged Benson was possibly killed by the use of nuts as bait – which is as good as a lethal poison to carp.

There is no such danger Two Tone will meet a similar fate, said Chris Logsdon, the fisheries manager for Mid Kent Fisheries.

He said: "Just 75 people a year are allowed to fish the Ashford lake Two Tone is in and they have been monitored for about a year to ensure they are proper anglers before we allow them on there."

He said only those that are fanatical about the sport are allowed near the lake, and several of them still have not managed to hook Two Tone, despite years of trying.

Mr Logsdon, who runs 29 lakes in the South East, said: "Some of them are spending thousands of pounds on their equipment in the hope of getting the big one.

"But there's about 30 acres of water and just 30 fish in there, so catching Two Tone is tough.

"He has been hooked a few times, but he is good at not being caught, which just ramps up the challenge.

"There is a lot of competition among them to catch the biggest and best fish and so some of the fish become well known. One guy has been trying to catch Two Tone for 15 years."

IT WAS THIS BIG: An angler gets lucky in catching the 67lb 14oz carp known as Two Tone

Benson died because he was in what is called a 'day-ticket fish', which means anyone is allowed to take a chance of catching him.

Mr Logsdon said: "We don't run things like that here. There are very strict controls and we don't let just anyone fish here.

"It preserves the environment and it keeps the fish in good condition. That is just the way I run things. The fish need to be protected.

"I am a chartered environmentalist and have been doing this for 30 years and that's why we have a good name around the country.

"The cost of a 30lb carp is around £3,500, so this is big business.

"If you don't have a fish of 30lbs no-one is interested in fishing in that lake. They only put on about two pounds a year. To have one Two Tone, who is about 30 years old, is a bit of a freak of nature."

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Hedges opening the 'dor' to conservation

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN ARABLE farmer has been shortlisted for doing major works on his land to protect the rare hazel dormouse.

Antony Martin has run Swanton Farm near Lydden since 1976, but it has been in the family for longer.

Along with five others, he has been shortlisted for an award from the wildlife charity, People's Trust for Endangered Species.

The organisation rewards farmers who go the extra mile to preserve wildlife while maintaining a working farm.

Mr Martin said they were particularly impressed with the extra hedging he has planted over several years.

The 65-year-old said: "We have been working steadily planting hedges which connect to woodland which have also been coppiced.

"The dormice enjoy this environment – it suits the way they live, and I am happy to say they are thriving on the land here.

"I saw this competition was being run, and it coincided with the work we were already doing, so I thought I would enter.

"I am delighted to have been shortlisted, but I am happier with the way the work is going here to make as much area as we can habitable for the dormice."

Picture: PAT MORRIS

His hedgerows are made up of hawthorn, blackthorn, spindleberry, guelder rose, field maple, and dog rose.

All the plants are native to the area and are fruit or seed bearing to provide food for wildlife.

The Trust said the conservation efforts made by the farming and landowner community to protect and restore our hedgerows and woodlands for posterity is vital.

The group said it is concerned the decline of vital habitats is widespread and is aiming to 'reconnect the countryside' by encouraging landowners to create the largest continuous area of dormouse-friendly habitat to ensure a future for this iconic species and our other hedgerow and woodland creatures.

It said the farmers on the shortlist, including Mr Martin, have demonstrated how they have done this by planting, coppicing and/or filling in gaps in existing hedges.

Both new and established woodland and hedgerows were counted, providing that in the long term the newer habitat will become suitable to support dormouse populations.

GOOD ENVIRONMENT: Antony Martin has been planting hedges to give a home to the rare hazel dormouse

Nida Al-Fulaij, development manager for PTES, said: "We are eagerly anticipating the final round of judging as we will be visiting each shortlisted landowner to see their conservation efforts in action.

"All of the shortlisted entries have been of a very high standard, and I think it will be a very tough call to decide on a winner. The results will be announced in September."

The winner will receive £1,000.

British hedgerows have shrunk from half a million miles in 1946 to less than 50 per cent of that in the early 1990s.

The group said improving hedgerow conservation has a positive impact on our dormouse population, and many other species will also benefit including other small mammals, bats, birds, butterflies and other invertebrates.

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Pedals power dreams

A REGAL bike ride covering more than 1,000 miles raised cash for a charity helping to make poorly children's dreams come true.

Det Con Dave Haining – a member of the Police Expedition Society – stopped off at all 15 Royal houses throughout the course of his two-week cycle in aid of the Starlight Children's Foundation.

The 38-year-old from Ashford, who was accompanied by two other policemen, told Kent on Sunday the ride did not get off to the best start: "None of us are cyclists and none of us had ever tried anything like this before. It didn't help that my bike fell to pieces. I had to buy a new one on eBay for £60 but the person who sold it to me gave me £20 back as a donation."

BIKERS: Dave with fellow cyclists Mark and Steve at Buckingham Palace

DC Haining's journey began at The Castle of Mey on the north coast of Scotland and included such locations as Edinburgh Castle and Buckingham Palace en route to the chequered flag at Highgrove House in Gloucestershire.

He added: "So far we have raised about £2,000, some of which will also be used to fund urgent repairs at Sellindge village hall near Ashford."

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Uplifting welcome for Gurkha campaigners

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

GURKHA Justice Campaign founder Peter Carroll has spoken of his delight at the reception he and Joanna Lumley received throughout their tour of Nepal.

The two were mobbed by well-wishers during their visit to the country last week, which was originally intended to be a low-key affair.

However, that all changed back in May when the Government agreed to change its immigration policy and give all former Gurkha soldiers the right to reside in the UK.

Lib Dem politician Mr Carroll, who will fight for the Maidstone and The Weald seat at the next general election, told Kent on Sunday his tour of Nepal was an "amazing life experience".

He added: "It's the sort of thing that happens once in a lifetime. On arriving at Kathmandu airport we were warned by police there were a lot of people waiting for us, but when those doors opened I just couldn't see.

"There was a wall of cameras, people, flags and banners, I actually feared for our safety at one point. I and a few others had to form a human barrier around Joanna because there were so many delighted people around we were worried there might be a crush.

HONOURED GUESTS: Joanna Lumley and Peter Carroll met Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal during their tour

"Some of those who had come to see us had walked for miles and miles. I wasn't expecting the reaction to our visit to be as powerful as it was. Obviously we were very happy with the result of our campaign but to look into the eyes of the people it affects, you could see how much it meant to them."

The foundations of the Gurkha Justice Campaign were laid in 2004 when Mr Carroll, a Shepway councillor, was approached by four veterans facing deportation.

Back then no former Gurkhas had a legal right to live in the UK, but within three years the Government had introduced a new policy that allowed those who retired after 1997 to settle in the country.

This still left older veterans out in the cold until the Government's announcement, which many have put down to the determination of Lumley, Mr Carroll and the campaign.

While the national media concentrated on the praise lavished upon "Goddess Joanna" during last week's visit to Nepal, Mr Carroll told KoS its citizens also showed their gratitude for his efforts: "There were banners that read 'we love you Peter' and I saw posters with pictures of me. It was humbling because really it should have been us saying thank you to them.

"I never imagined the campaign would end like this, but that's one of the most uplifting things – that someone can fight against the Government and win."

Meanwhile, Kent County Council took advantage of Mr Carroll's visit by asking him to invite the Nepalese Olympics team to stay in Kent during the 2012 games. He went straight to the top with the invite, handing it to Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal.

He said: "We have Gurkhas based in Folkestone, Ashford and Maidstone so it would be fantastic if they used Kent as their base at the next Olympics. The ministers I spoke to in Nepal were very grateful for the invite."

Bridge fall rescue

A WOMAN is lucky to be alive after plummeting off the M2 motorway bridge into the mudflats below.

The 26-year-old, from Northfleet, fell from the bridge at 7pm on Monday.

The impact left her buried up to her neck in the mud and gasping for air.

She would have drowned had it not been for the brave actions of police officer Andre Smuts and a part-time off duty coastguard.

The pair scrambled across the mud and managed to keep the woman's head above water until the coastguard arrived.

The woman, who has not been named, is in the Medway Maritime Hospital and is in a stable condition. Police are not treating the incident as suspicious.

Avoid sunburn, stings and other summer 'souvenirs'

HEALTH bosses have launched a campaign to help people have fun and stay healthy this summer, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent said that after last summer more than 2,500 sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were diagnosed in the area.

In a bid to ensure travellers don't bring back an unwanted 'souvenir' from their summer holidays, top tips include buying a pack of condoms in addition to your normal contraception and keeping them away from oil-based products such as sun lotion, baby oil and lipstick.

Sarah Andrews, the primary care trust's director of nursing, said: "The aim of the Stay Safe for Summer campaign is to enable people to have fun and keep healthy. Spending time outdoors is a great way to make you feel good, but you still need to be sensible.

"Whether you're enjoying some sun in the Med or in your own back garden, you need to protect yourself, your family and vulnerable friends and neighbours against some of the potential dangers to health."

As well as advice about protecting yourself from STIs, the campaign also focuses on staying safe in the sun.

Although the country hasn't seen the barbecue summer and soaring temperatures predicted by the Met Office earlier this year, people heading off to warmer climes should be prepared and know the risks – especially to vulnerable groups such as the elderly.

SITTING PRETTY: Use factor 15 sunblock

The PCT said skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK and about 1,700 people are being treated for malignant melanoma and other skin cancers in east Kent. The advice is to use sunblock or sunscreen of at least factor 15; ensure children are protected with factor 30; and babies with factor 50 plus. The very young, older people and those with serious illnesses are at greater risk of serious harm in the heat.

It can also make heart and respiratory problems worse and in extreme cases lead to heat stroke, which can be fatal.

People with serious health problems should avoid going out in the heat, especially between 11am-3pm when the sun is at its strongest, the PCT warns.

The campaign also tells people what to do if they experience health problems this summer, such as sunburn and wasp stings.

"When you have a health issue it is important that you receive the right treatment at the right time and in the right place," Ms Andrews said. "We want to increase the range of choice people have in deciding when and where they want to be treated and make our services as accessible as possible.

"By using the NHS Choices website when dealing with health issues such as sunburn and stings (www.nhs.co.uk) or by calling NHS direct on 0845 46 47, you can receive the health advice you need 24 hours a day."

NHS
KOS media
CAMPAIGN 2009

Other potential health hazards in the summer include barbecues. The PCT said 965 people in east Kent turned up at A&E suffering from food poisoning last year.

So advice is to wash your hands every time you touch raw meat and keep it separate from other foods, properly thaw frozen meat before you cook it, only eat meat when it is piping hot in the centre, and don't leave it out in the sun.

"We hope people will welcome this advice," Ms Andrews said. "Some may already know, but it's easy to forget what to do to protect yourself, your family and vulnerable friends and neighbours. We hope this reminder will enable everyone to enjoy a happier, healthier summer."

The 50 summer health tips can be found at www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk.

For further advice, go to www.nhs.uk or call NHS direct on 0845 46 47.

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Baby P tragedy breaks taboo on reporting abuse

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE tragic death of Baby Peter has encouraged more people to speak out if they believe a child is being abused.

Between April, 2008, and March this year, 2,242 people from Kent called the NSPCC's 24-hour helpline because they were worried about a child.

Steve Dabrowski, the charity's children's services manager for the Kent and Medway family support service, said referrals to social services had increased across the county since the brutal torture and death of 17-month-old Peter in August, 2007, was exposed.

"Generally there is a feeling that people are more willing to stand up and be counted and come forward," he said. "At least to take the opportunity to contact someone and say, 'I'm not sure about this'.

"Before there was still a reluctance to get involved in other people's business, but this case was so shocking it helped break that down a bit more."

Nationally, since the death of Baby Peter, the NSPCC's helpline has passed on 11,243 suspected child protection cases to police or social services, which is an increase of more than a third in two years.

The charity, which specialises in child protection and the prevention of cruelty to children, said it was unable to provide comparable figures for Kent.

However, Mr Dabrowski said: "I know they have seen an increase in referrals when I've been speaking with colleagues in Kent and Medway social services."

Asked if the case had raised awareness of the issues around child abuse, he said: "Definitely. Not only among families we are working with but in general with other people, it is something that has made it much more current and people are will to engage in discussion.

"It was high profile and high impact, whether you work in children's services or not. It is one of those cases, certainly for people in the profession, one of those horrible events that marks a watershed you can never go back from. It has led to a change in the way services are delivered."

INNOCENT VICTIM: The Baby Peter case has brought an increase in referrals

The NSPCC released the helpline figures on Monday, which was the second anniversary of Baby Peter's death after he suffered more than 50 injuries during months of abuse at his home in Haringey, London.

"Certainly in Kent as in elsewhere, everyone is certainly looking at what they are doing," Mr Dabrowski said. "It has shaken a lot of people up."

Mr Dabrowski runs NSPCC family support services in Gillingham, Sheerness and Ramsgate as well as a therapeutic service for children who have suffered abuse.

"It is something that will always stay," he said. "We've all had to examine our consciences and the way we work, and we have reflected on that with others."

The NSPCC said 35 per cent of calls referred by its helpline last year concerned families that were not known to local authorities. The authorities took action to investigate and protect the children in 98 per cent of cases.

Many of the calls were about children being physically assaulted, sexually abused or badly neglected. Most came from neighbours, relatives and friends of the family.

Christine Renouf, director of the charity's helpline services, said: "The increasing number of serious child abuse calls we are getting shows the continuing need for our helpline.

"But it's also encouraging that so many people are now taking responsibility for stopping this abuse. It is becoming more and more difficult for child abusers to hide their crimes.

"It only takes a few seconds to dial our number and it could be the difference between life and death for a child."

The NSPCC's helpline is 0808 800 5000.

Cashpoint warning after skimmer find

POLICE have found a 'skimming' device in a cashpoint machine at Barclays in Riverhead, Sevenoaks.

Officers said anyone using ATMs should check there is nothing suspicious about a cash machine before using it. In particular check around the insert slot to ensure a false front has not been stuck on the machine.

Don't allow yourself to be distracted when using the machines and keep your card in sight at all times. Take care not to let anyone see your PIN.

If you have any suspicions about the machine, don't use it. Most cases of counterfeit fraud involve skimming, a process where the genuine data on a card's magnetic stripe is electronically copied onto another without the cardholder's knowledge.

Cardholders are unaware of the fraud until a statement arrives showing purchases they didn't make.

Sgt Jon Turtle said: "We've had suspicious devices or incidents reported at banks in both Sevenoaks and Tonbridge."

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A TRUCKER stunned his bride-to-be and family and friends by turning up to his wedding in his HGV.

Shaun Fairweather, from Maidstone, said: "Trucks have always been a passion of mine and I wanted to do something unconventional for the wedding – so turning up my rig seemed the obvious choice."

The truck-mad groom, who works for transport and storage firm Alan Firmin Ltd, stunned bride-to-be Jenny when he arrived outside the register office at the Archbishop's Palace driving his DAF XF105 super-space tractor unit.

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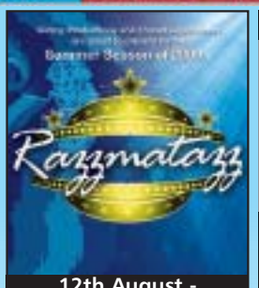

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Saturday 5th
Mr Wonderful
Friday 18th
Mandy Winters - The Concert
Saturday 19th
Disco Inferno 13

OCTOBER 2009
Saturday 3rd
Dancing Days
Sunday 4th
Noddy in Toyland
Thursday 8th - Friday 9th
Funtime - Autumn Variety
Saturday 10th
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Sunday 18th
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Sat 22nd	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00
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Sat 29th	Brussels	£31.00
Sun 30th	Diggerland	£23.00

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Mon 7th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00
Thurs 10th	BBC Television Tour	£23.50

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Pup bites off more than she can chew with plastic arrow

A PUPPY was lucky to survive after wolfing down a plastic arrow that was nearly as long as her body, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

When the playful pup started acting lethargically and appeared to be in pain, owner Emma Watson took Betty to the PDSA where the truth emerged in a dramatic X-ray.

The vets couldn't help but spot the 10-inch arrow with a plastic sucker on the end running from near the Staffordshire bull terrier's throat to her stomach.

Emma, 38, from Swanley, said she was worried when Betty lost her appetite for both food and play.

The dog needed an emergency operation at the Thamesmead PDSA PetAid hospital to retrieve the toy arrow.

It had lodged halfway through her body from the oesophagus to the small intestine.

Emma said it probably happened when Betty disappeared into her daughter's playhouse. She heard coughing and spluttering and rushed in, but saw nothing untoward at first. Betty came out and ate and drank as normal that day.

But the next day it was a different story.

Emma said: "Betty started to vomit and wasn't eating or drinking, which was totally unlike her. Normally she is very boisterous and playful, but she was very quiet and didn't want to be around anyone, not even my nine-year-old daughter Lilly Jay."

Unsure how serious it was, Emma left it another day – and that's when Betty nearly collapsed.

Veterinary surgeon Chris Pollard, who operated on Betty, said: "The X-rays were surprising to say the least. The arrow was so long it virtually ran through Betty's body, but it also explained why she was so ill. The main concern was the length of the arrow and where it ended, in the small intestine. This could have penetrated the stomach wall and proved fatal. We had to operate immediately."

It took more than an hour, but he was delighted with the way it went.

Mr Pollard said: "The operation proved incredibly intricate as Betty was so young and her internal organs were still not yet fully developed.

"We opened up the abdomen and made an incision in the stomach to pull the arrow out with great care. Considering Betty's size as a puppy, it really is amazing that she managed to swallow a 10-and-a-half inch arrow."

Betty had recovered enough from her ordeal by the following morning to chew through her IV line.

Emma said: "She doesn't appear to have learnt her lesson because as soon she got home she tried to eat the TV remote control, so we're keeping a close eye on her now to prevent anything like this from happening again."

Mr Pollard added: "The best advice is prevention, so pet owners should identify and eliminate any potential dangers in their homes."

LUCKY PUP: Betty with the arrow she swallowed

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Questions on mental health 'not answered' as report is finally out

A LONG-awaited report on mental health services has failed to address concerns and criticisms raised during a consultation with patients, carers and GPs, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

NHS West Kent said a 'listening exercise' involving around 250 service users and carers, and interviews with 12 family doctors, would be used to inform a report setting out future aims for mental health services.

The report was due to be published in the spring, and Kent on Sunday has been asking to see a copy since the beginning of May.

The report and the results of the listening exercise finally landed on Tuesday. But many of people who took part in the consultation have still not seen it.

Linda Leonard, chief executive of Sevenoaks area Mind, the charity which carried out the listening exercise on behalf of the primary care trust, said: "I just think that it is because there's been no explanation about the delay, so people do not understand.

"If you agree to do something it would be useful if you cannot make the deadline to explain why. Also, it would be helpful to treat people with respect and to feedback to them."

The people who took part raised a series of concerns about existing mental health services, such as a lack of continuity of care, out-of-hours services, crisis support and the availability of talking therapies.

Feedback

One service user spoke of waiting six months for treatment for depression.

Another, speaking about talking therapies, said: "The lack of availability is appalling. Research keeps saying it is better than antidepressants and that GPs are prescribing too many, but what else can be done when there is virtually no service to speak of? Availability needs to be increased."

GPs raised similar concerns as patients and their carers and spoke of the wait for counselling being so long they often ended up prescribing drugs instead.

A major point raised by all the groups involved was that they "lacked trust around the benefit of the consultation". "They have been consulted before and nothing 'changes'," the report said.

Tony Wright, who cares for his adult son who has severe mental health problems and is a member of the Sevenoaks Rethink voluntary support group, had not seen a copy of the report.

He said: "I have no wish to be ungenerous towards the trusts, but it has to be recalled that this process of consultation is now almost two years of age since it was first announced.

"The pace of management, therefore, leaves something to be desired, particularly given the many questions raised during this period which have not been responded to."

He called the report "inconclusive" and said: "It is appreciated that the trusts have now acknowledged issues, which is a step forward bearing in mind past reticence.

"However, the true test of course is how they address the fundamentals raised and how services improve. This still has not been provided."

Mind's Ms Leonard said she hoped the report and views of service users would be used to inform the PCT's next piece of work – the Kent and Medway Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy, which is a five-year vision for services expected in October.

"I think part of the issue is that things are moving on at such a pace in mental health and the delay has meant that in some respects things have moved beyond this," she added.

The PCT apologised for the delay in publishing the final report.

A spokeswoman said: "From the time it was collected, the feedback has been directly informing our commissioning plans for the next five years, which are actively in preparation."

The PCT said the long wait for psychological or talking therapies was "unacceptable" and access will be improved from October this year.

The spokeswoman said the PCT agrees with the main concerns raised by carers, GPs and services users and work had already begun addressing several of them, including 24-hour access to crisis resolution teams.

Important

She added: "There is an awful lot of work going on behind the scene, and we are in contact with a lot of service users and carers, whose views we regard as extremely important, who choose to engage with us through our regular service users and carers commissioning boards and meetings.

"In this way, service users and carers have a real impact day to day on the shape of mental health services in west Kent."

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Sing like you're Elvis in centre competition

ELVIS impersonators will take part in a singing competition at the Walnuts Shopping Centre, Orpington, on Sunday, August 16.

The contest, which will be held between 11am and 4pm, marks 32 years to the day since the King of Rock 'n' Roll was found dead at his Graceland home in Memphis, Tennessee. A selection of prizes will be on offer.

Those wishing to take part should send their telephone number and the song they would like to sing to the walnuts@pmwcom.co.uk by tomorrow.

Turn down the heat of your energy bills

HOMEOWNERS in Bromley and Bexley could save a total of £7.4 million in energy bills, according to a new report.

The Energy Saving Trust says that by filling in cavity walls and insulating lofts, residents can be more efficient and therefore pay less.

In a league table of energy-saving potential, Bromley comes fourth out of the 33 London boroughs with a total of £4.2m. Bexley is sixth with £3.2m.

Visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk for more details.

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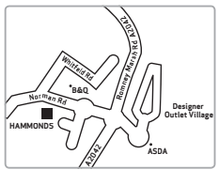

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WIN a meal for two at Carluccio's

SAY bonjourno as Carluccio's opens a new caffè in Canterbury.

Residents and visitors to Canterbury will now be able to sample genuine Italian food, with the arrival of Carluccio's, situated on the ground floor of Fenwick, next to Whitefriars on St George's Lane, which opens this weekend.

Offering the successful combination of a caffè, restaurant, alimentari foodshop and deli, Carluccio's is open throughout the day, for breakfast, coffee, light lunch, a post-work drink at the bar, or a three-course meal with wine in the evening.

Carluccio's uses only the freshest seasonal ingredients and sources directly from Italy where possible.

Favourite dishes on the affordable menu include penne giardiniera and lasagne tradizionale, and a three-course meal will set you back just £15.

If you're looking for a healthy meal on-the-go Carluccio's deli is your answer, brimming with tasty Italian wraps, light salads and takeaway dishes perfect for an Italian feast. And don't forget the foodshop, where you can pick up a last-minute beautifully packaged gift, choosing from shelves bursting with authentic oils, wines, pasta, sauces, jams, preserves and chocolates.

To celebrate the arrival of Carluccio's in Canterbury, Kent on Sunday is giving away a three-course meal and a bottle of wine in Carluccio's to six lucky readers and a guest each.

Simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Carluccio's Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is August 14, 2009.

Question: Where is the new Carluccio's restaurant situated in Canterbury?

No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Winners can redeem their prize at Carluccio's in Canterbury, Bluewater or Tunbridge Wells. For further site information visit: www.carluccios.com.

Not valid in conjunction within any offer. Prize must be redeemed by November 8, 2009.

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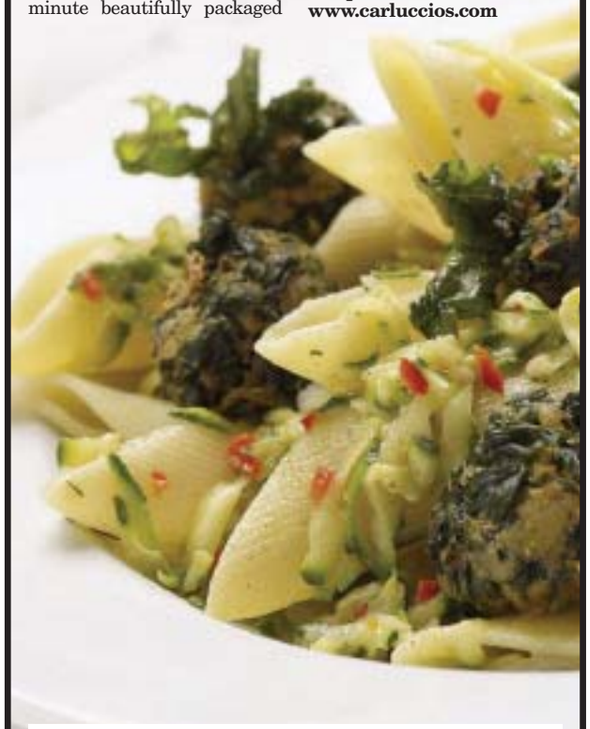


Carluccio's

Funding will help communities encourage youngsters to broaden their horizons

Inspiring children to have a better future

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

HUNDREDS of young people living in a deprived area of Kent are set to benefit from a £300,000 share of a Government fund to improve their aspirations.

The neighbourhood partnership group East Folkestone Together is one of only 15 organisations around the country to have successfully bid for a part in the £10 million Inspiring Communities programme.

Nick Eubank, director of the Creative Foundation, which is among the organisations involved in the group, said: "The whole purpose of the project is to improve young people's futures in east Folkestone."

He said about 600 young people would benefit from the funding.

"Some of the activities will be specifically targeted at harder to reach groups like young carers and looked-after children," Mr Eubank added. "It is part of a Government drive to tackle poverty of aspiration in deprived communities."

He said he thought the group was successful because of work it has already been doing with young people in the area.

Inspiring Communities projects will be aimed at 11 to 14-year-olds and will create new opportunities, broaden their horizons and help build up their self-confidence.

Dragons' Den-type activities to help bring out the entrepreneurial side of the young people, working with local artists and exploring the 'wacky world of work' are among the plans in Folkestone.

Challenges

"We have designed packages that will be aimed at young people at the stage they become most vulnerable in terms of their futures," Mr Eubank said. "The idea is to give them exposure to challenges and exciting ideas about their future."

Young people and their families will be able to visit relevant workplaces and there will also be a skills exchange, which will see, for example, young people learn woodwork from older people who in turn will be taught IT skills.

People from the community in their 20s will also be linked up with the young people to share their experiences of leaving education and finding work.

Local artists from the town's Creative Quarter will also work with the young people to show the variety of paid and voluntary work available in the arts sector.

The project will be led by Sean Heslop, the principal of Folkestone Academy, which is also part of East Folkestone Together.

Mr Eubank added: "The role of the academy is going to be very important to the project. Sean was described by Ofsted as 'an outstanding and visionary leader'. He has a very strong track record."

South East regional minister Jonathan Shaw, the MP for Chatham and Aylesford, said: "Young people, no matter what their background, should have aspirations and be given the chance to achieve them. Inspiring Communities is about broadening their horizons and giving them every opportunity to achieve success."

The local authorities, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and Kent Police are also among the partners in East Folkestone Together.

Sunbed re-think for leisure centre

ASHFORD Leisure Trust says it is to review its use of tanning machines after a report last week put the cancer risk on a par with cigarettes, arsenic and asbestos.

Chief executive Emma Wood said: "We are members of the National Sunbed Association and we adhere to their guidelines. However, given the recent news raising the category threat along with cigarettes we will be making a timely and appropriate decision about their future."

The trust operates two machines at the Stour Centre for Ashford Borough Council.

The report was carried out for the World Health Organisation. It concluded that tanning beds could increase the risk of developing skin cancer by 75 per cent, particularly if used by children and young adults.

Ashford Leisure Trust has already risen the minimum age for users from 16 to 18 as a result of the news.

Rubbish dumper punished for lies over his identity

A FLY-TIPPER who twice lied to officials about his identity has been sentenced to 160 hours of community service and ordered to pay costs of £1,500.

Hubert Townsend, from Lambeth in south London, was found guilty of dumping large amounts of wood, plastic, wire and hardcore at Kevington Farm, Orpington, in January last year.

Dangerous asbestos fragments were also found on the site by Environment Agency officers, who also discovered an audit trail of evidence that led to Townsend.

He lied twice about his identity during an interview and only gave his real name after being arrested by police.

Townsend's dishonesty cost him 80 hours more community service than he would have otherwise received.

North Kent environment officer Chris Back said: "Mr Townsend's illegal activities had the potential to cause serious damage to the environment. Left unchecked, the large amount of dangerous waste illegally dumped could have affected local people's drinking water.

"The rules on how to handle, transport and dispose of waste are in place to protect the environment and people's health, and we will take swift and decisive action against anyone who flouts these strict controls."

Authors pay homage to abbey's rich history

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A COLLECTION of books detailing the religious and architectural history of Canterbury's crumbling St Augustine's Abbey have been released.

The ancient buildings, which form part of the city's World Heritage Site, are visited every year by thousands of people eager to find out more about the rich origins of the Anglo-Saxon ruins.

Yesterday a special book signing was held at the abbey by three local authors who have focused on different aspects of its history.

Religion

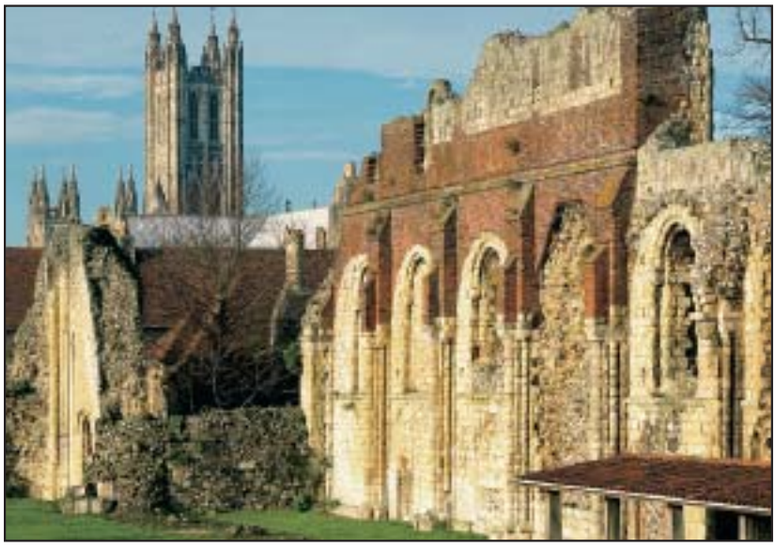
Martin Taylor's publication, The Cradle of English Christianity, looks at the role of religion over the years, while Antony Ryan's The Abbey and Palace of St Augustine, Canterbury, examines the site in its wider context from the time of the Reformation through to its post-Reformation owners and occupiers.

The final author was geologist Geoff Downer, whose booklet The Stones of St Augustine's Abbey was originally intended to be a factsheet for English Heritage tour guides to work from.

Mr Downer said: "It's an ideal site to study because of the range of different medieval building materials that are there and accessible to the general public.

"My aim was to describe and illustrate those materials so that perhaps people could take that knowledge away and apply it to other medieval buildings in Kent.

"Although Kentish ragstone was used in the abbey, the county was not very well blessed with good material and so there is also stone from Surrey, Dorset, the Isle of Wight and France."



HISTORIC RUINS: New trio of books charts history of St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury

Founded shortly after AD 597 by St Augustine, the abbey was originally created as a burial ground for the Anglo-Saxon kings of Kent.

Its shape and size changed dramatically over the centuries – hence the presence of medieval building materials – until it was closed as part of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538.

Part of the site was later converted into a palace, which was destroyed by a great storm in 1703 that also caused further damage to the already crumbling structure of the abbey.

Mr Downer said: "The abbey is one of Canterbury's landmarks and as part of its World Heritage Site has an important role to play both nationally and internationally.

"I find it so interesting and different because a lot of our church buildings are complete – all you can see is the inside and the outside. With the abbey we are looking at ruins so you can see more of a cross-section of how it was constructed."

• ***All three books are on sale at the abbey. Visit www.english-heritage.org.uk for information on opening times and admission costs.***

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Ugly mugs creating a stir for cancer charity

CAMAIGN: Nurse Josie Richards (left), and radiographers Brenda Manktelow (right) and Steve Dann (centre), at the launch of the Ugly Mug Amnesty and The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

A CHARITY has launched a hunt for the Ugliest Mug in Kent to kick-start one of the biggest fundraising events in Britain. ***writes Jon Coates.***

But before you take offence and start arguing the virtues of inner beauty – they're not interested in your faces.

Macmillian Cancer Support wants to find the most quirky or bizarre drinking mug in the county.

For the Ugly Mug Amnesty, which is backed by KOS Media, it wants you to dig out old mugs lurking at the back of your cupboards or being used to hold toothbrushes in the bathroom.

When you've found your Ugliest Mug, take a photo of you holding it by your face and email it to the address at the end of this story.

Also make sure you tell us if it has an interesting history or funny story behind how it came into your possession.

Every week we will choose an Ugly Mug of the Week, which will put on our websites.

So try to make sure we can see the mug clearly in your photo and include your name, age, address, job and contact details.

Then a week before Macmillian Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday, September 25, we'll choose and publish the winner of the Ugly Mug Amnesty.

The winner will receive a World's Biggest Coffee Morning Mug from Macmillan Cancer Support and a £50 Coffee Gift Set from KOS Media.

Amnesty

Laura Thornton, Macmillian Cancer Support's fundraising manager for Kent, said: "An Ugly Mug Amnesty has never been done before, but everyone has a mug lurking at the back of their cupboard with a story behind it.

"We want to ask people to send in pictures of their mugs and tell us the history behind them."

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's flagship fundraiser.

Now in its 19th year, it has become one of the biggest fundraising events in Britain, along with Children in Need and Red Nose Day.

Macmillan asks the pubic to host or attend a coffee morning, with all donations going directly to those affected by cancer.

Supporters are encouraged to visit www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee to register and pick up fundraising tips, or call 0845 602 1246. Make sure you enter the code RNA 10 so Macmillan know you are a KOS Media reader.

Last year the World's Biggest Coffee Morning raised £7.5 million and the target this year is more than £8m nationwide.

But we are calling on all our readers to help make Kent the biggest fundraiser in the country. We'll be holding a coffee morning for staff on September 25 and urge businesses across the county to join in, too.

Macmillan has 120 health professionals active across Kent helping patients and their families deal with cancer.

Their support means people do not have to face their harrowing ordeals on their own.

All entries into the Ugly Mug Amnesty must be received by Friday, September 11, with the winner announced in our midweek Yourlocal newspapers on Wednesday, September 16.

But you don't have to wait till then – get your entries in to be crowned Ugly Mug of the Week and see yourself on our websites.

• ***Send your entries to Jon Coates, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR, or email them to jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk.***

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Trust ready to cross bridge of tunnel decision

TAXPAYERS could become burdened with the multi-million pound upkeep of Medway Tunnel within a matter of weeks, it has been revealed.

Rochester Bridge Trust bosses are meeting this month to decide whether or not to transfer ownership of the tunnel to Medway Council.

The charity's chiefs will consider the views of thousands of Medway residents – all of whom had their say on the sale during a period of public consultation.

Labour MP Jonathan Shaw and prospective Parliamentary candidate Teresa Murray have led a high-profile campaign opposing the proposal. But bridge clerk Sue Threader said the deal was in the public's interest.

She said: "We would not consider transferring ownership if we didn't think it would help secure well-maintained and appropriately managed crossings over the Medway for the long term.

"While we technically own the tunnel, Medway Council is, and has always been, contractually responsible for maintaining it under a 999-year lease. To make management of the tunnel less bureaucratic, Medway Council asked us to transfer ownership to them.

"Transferring the Tunnel to the council means we can focus on managing and maintaining the old and new bridges at Rochester – at no cost whatsoever to the public – which is why the Trust was established and what it has successfully done for centuries."

Medway's Labour group remained unmoved.

In a joint statement Mr Shaw and Ms Murray said: "We have said this is a bad deal and should not go ahead because it will leave taxpayers short-changed by more than £2 million."

RBT owns and maintains the two bridges that cross the River Medway at Rochester.

THIS picture of boats at Whitstable was taken by Win Dalton from Kennington.

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Play putting domestic violence centre stage

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

AN INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed play that questions why women around the world are still suffering violence at the hands of their fathers, husbands, sons and partners, is coming to Kent.

Hurried Steps is a translation of the Italian play Passi Affrettati by Dacia Maraini and has been brought to the UK by Amnesty International and New Shoes Theatre, a production company based in Tunbridge Wells.

"The idea is to present these stories, which are based on true stories and ask: why is violence against women specifically against women?" director Nicolette Kay said.

"If you look at the stories it seems to be because they are women. This is a cultural phenomenon that crosses all race, cultural, geographic and class barriers.

"Women experience domestic violence, it happens no matter what your social background is. But you do not necessarily hear about it because people keep it quiet."

The play is coming to the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells in November as part of a series of events to mark National Domestic Violence Awareness Week.

It is split into eight stories about women who come from a range of social backgrounds and countries from rural Nigeria to urban Belgium.

Maraini, an Italian playwright, novelist, poet and journalist renowned for her work on women's issues, said: "With hurried steps these women flee from pain and discrimination.

"Inspired by real facts reported by Amnesty International, the text is a testimony, an accusation, a gesture of solidarity and acknowledgement of all those women who are still prisoners of forced marriage, a violent family, of a hustler, of tradition or age old discriminations which are so difficult to overcome."

Ms Kay said the company had just completed a pilot project in Leicester and was due to launch the national tour in October.

"It is a very stark presentation written so that the word is actually the most important thing," she said. "For Dacia it is actually quite a departure from her usual plays, which are usually incredibly theatrical, she wanted this to be very bald.

"The actors present it straight out to the audience, facing the viewers and presenting their stories. This gives enormous impact."

She said the writer Maraini was very much a part of the feminist movement in the 1970s.

After the play a panel of experts on domestic violence take to the stage to answer any questions from the audience about the issues raised.

Ms Kay said: "Just talking about the piece leads people to reveal things you did not know before. One person I know told me her daughter had experienced domestic violence.

"She comes from a very middle class family and had never had any contact with social services and they really did not know what to do and how to go about giving support."

She said after the play is shown in Tunbridge Wells she hopes it will be performed at various venues around Kent, including non-theatre sites.

"I first saw the play in France in a disadvantaged part of Paris. The young people were very struck by it, you could hear a pin drop," she said.

The New Shoes Theatre production includes the actor Charlotte Lucas who starred as Selena Geeson in ITV's Bad Girls.

It will be performed on November 28 at the Trinity Theatre and there will also be a collection for the local women's refuge.

DRAMATIC IMPACT: Director Nicolette Kay hopes the play will get people talking

Polling day set

LABOUR Medway councillor Dennis McFarlane has resigned – sparking a by-election in his Luton and Wayfield ward.

Mr McFarlane announced his resignation on July 14, after it became known he was under investigation for what his party described as "irregular benefit claims". He was suspended from the party a week later.

The three main political parties have unveiled their candidate for the forthcoming by-election, which will be held on Thursday, September 3. Tashi Bhutia is standing for the Conservatives, Sam Whittington for Labour, and Gary Allanach is the Liberal Democrat candidate.

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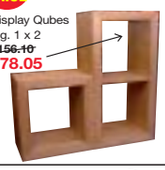
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Bargain boot sales kicking in extra cash

WITH money getting harder to come by, many people are turning to car boot sales to help make ends meet.

The county is the second most active in the country behind Essex when it comes to buying and selling second-hand goods from our car boots.

Fees to open your trunk as a seller are around the £10 mark, and many are free to attend as a buyer, although some do charge an entrance fee.

Finance website Moneywise found the number of sales are now at an all-time high, thanks to the effect of the slump.

The number of sales has soared an astonishing 78 per cent in the last year.

Emma Scott runs regular boot fairs with her family at Hewitts Farm in Court Road, Orpington.

Bargain Hunt

She said: "They really are a great way to make a few extra pounds, and is a brilliant day out too.

"There are various factors which make people come to a boot fair – the weather of course, plus TV shows like Bargain Hunt.

"But it is also the recession. People need to make some extra money and there really is no better way than coming along and selling what they don't use or need anymore.

"I am delighted Kent is the second in the country when it comes to popularity – we have seen a steady rise in the numbers coming along to ours. It's turning into a steady business for some people."

Yannick Pons, boss of the listings website VivaStreet.co.uk said: "Brits have always loved car boot sales, whether that's rummaging around in the hope of unearthing a hidden treasure or the fun of making a profit out of a pile of unwanted possessions.

"However, with many households suffering in the recession, car boot sales have become more than just a fun day out.

"They have become a way of making some much-needed cash or finding essential items at bargain prices."

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MP seeks truth on torture

Government urged to come clean over alleged British involvement

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

AN influential MP has called on the Government to prove it is giving terror suspects the human rights its soldiers are fighting to protect.

Erith and Thamesmead Labour MP John Austin is a member of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, which this week published a highly critical report saying there was now a "disturbing number of credible allegations" of British complicity in torture.

Mr Austin, who is stepping down at the next General Election, told Kent on Sunday it was important the Government showed transparency regardless of whether or not the accusations were true.

He said: "The Government says it does not condone inhumane treatment or torture and does not rely on evidence gained through those means, but there appears to be some doubt about that.

"These practices are unlawful under international law and if it is suspected that some of its agents have been involved then the Government should come out and say so.

"I think torture is one of the basic fundamental human rights issues, and once you step beyond that you're on dangerous ground.

TELL US: John Austin says the Government should reveal any British complicity in the torture of terror suspects

"We're always talking about combating terrorism to protect our rights and values, but we need to uphold those values ourselves."

The allegations levelled at the Government include the rendition and alleged abuse of British resident Binyam Mohammed from Pakistan to Morocco, before he was taken to Guantanamo Bay.

The committee also looked at other cases where convicted terrorists say they were visited by British intelligence officers while they were detained and allegedly mistreated by Pakistani authorities.

However, MPs say they are unable to establish the facts while ministers and the head of MI5 continue to dodge requests to appear before them.

Mr Austin said: "We feel a full inquiry before a High Court judge will satisfy people at the present time. While we cannot comment on individual cases, there are allegations that people are being tortured and we think the Government has been less than frank about it.

"It's frustrating and it's no good for the Government either. It should make a clear statement rather than release information bit by bit.

"I don't think it can really hide behind its statement that giving information would go against national security either. It looks bad and points to a lack of transparency."

A Government spokesman told the BBC there was no need for an independent inquiry.

He added: "The Government unreservedly condemns the use of torture as a matter of fundamental principle and works hard with its international partners to eradicate this abhorrent practice worldwide.

"The Government has already made clear it is committed to publishing guidance to intelligence officers as well as asking the Intelligence and Security Committee to consider new developments on detention and rendition."

Memorial meal for Potter star

A DINNER is being held in honour of murdered Harry Potter star Rob Knox.

The 18-year-old football fan was stabbed to death in a scuffle outside the Metro bar in Sidcup in May last year. Killer Karl Bishop was jailed for at least 20 years for his murder.

The family has since launched a campaign to clamp down on knives being carried on the streets.

FAN: Rob Knox was a Charlton supporter

In October, Charlton Football Club is hosting a charity dinner at their Valley ground in Rob's memory and as part of the Stop Knives Save Lives campaign.

The club said it is being planned as a celebration of the life of the Addicks supporter from Sidcup.

Rob's death sparked the club's groundbreaking Street Violence Ruins Lives initiative, and guests will gather to help to raise money to tackle the problem of knives and guns.

Rob's father, Colin, who sits on its steering committee, said: "The memorial night is be important to raise funds to allow the campaign to do more work to tackle this social problem on our streets."

Mr Knox demanded prison time for youngsters who carry weapons when he visited Gordon Brown.

He said: "Using The Valley is important because Rob had so many good times here. All Charlton fans are urged to support the campaign and are very welcome."

Rob played Marcus Belby in the Half-Blood Prince film, the sixth in the Harry Potter series.

The dinner is at The Valley on October 15 and will feature an auction and headline speakers. Tickets are £50 each or £500 for a table of 10.

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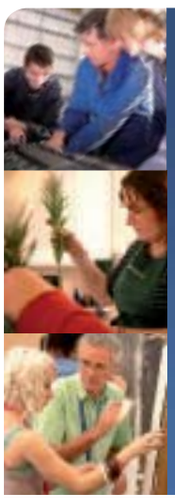

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Police search for getaway car following bank robbery

DETECTIVES are hunting a grey four-wheel-drive vehicle believed to have been used as a getaway car following a bank raid on the Isle of Sheppey.

Police are calling for witnesses to come forward after the raid at the NatWest Bank in Sheerness on July 24.

The incident started when a man entered the bank just after midday and assaulted a Securicor guard, before taking a cash box and then fleeing the scene.

No weapons were used and no-one was hurt. The amount of money taken has not been revealed by the bank or the police.

The robber wore a motorcycle helmet, a black leather jacket and grey jogging bottoms and is thought to have been with another man who was also wearing a motorcycle helmet.

Police believe the pair may have then got into a new, grey 4x4 vehicle which came out of the car park opposite Sheerness Police Station and turned left towards the centre of the Isle of Sheppey.

Det Chief Insp Nick Gossett said: "We are appealing for any witnesses to the robbery or who may have seen this grey 4x4, to contact police in the first instance on 01795 419161 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Pub meal for celebrity chef

READY, Steady, Cook star Ainsley Harriott was a visitor to the Three Horseshoes pub in Mongeham, near Deal, along with members of his family.

The TV presenter called in for lunch while on his way to a wedding, which also took place in the village.

Staff said he was very friendly but declined to do the cooking as he was on a day off, and added that he enjoyed his lunch and tipped generously.

MP's plea: Don't forget about our other troops

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DEFENCE chiefs should not let the war in Afghanistan distract them from the needs of other UK soldiers around the world, warns a Conservative MP.

Last week Thanet North representative Roger Gale paid a visit to some of the 1,300 troops stationed in the Falkland Islands, who have maintained a large military presence since the Argentine invasion and subsequent conflict of 1982.

A former Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Mr Gale told Kent on Sunday he was concerned soldiers in the overseas territory were being short-changed by the Government.

He said: "It's a question of resources because a lot of the facilities need upgrading and refurbishing.

"The troops are doing the best they possibly can with what they've got, but we're getting to the point where if we don't invest money soon then it will be much more expensive later.

"If we are going to continue to do this job of protecting the Falklands and its interests then we have to have the ships, the planes and the soldiers, and they have to be properly equipped.

Priority

"Afghanistan is the priority and that has to come top of the list – we all understand that.

"But please don't overlook what is needed in places like the Falklands and other places where we have a military presence."

Mr Gale, 65, visited the Falklands as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, which seeks to provide MPs with first-hand knowledge of the role and functions of the Army, Navy and RAF.

As well as being able to talk with personnel at the Mount Pleasant military base, he also spent a night on board the South Atlantic patrol ship HMS Gloucester.

In total Mr Gale travelled 16,000 miles during his week away – 12,000 of which came during the final 36 hours of the tour due to him arriving in the Falklands several days later than planned.

VISITING THE FAULKLANDS: Top: Roger Gale on board HMS Gloucester. Below, next to a signpost made by troops that points to Herne Bay, and visiting various parts of the base

He said: "Part of the purpose of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme is to let our soldiers know they are appreciated, which is why we went in mid-winter when the weather is at its worst.

"However, it just so happened that the Falklands experienced its heaviest snowfall in 20 years last week, so they had to shut the entire military base down.

"We ended up marooned on Ascension Island for three days, which ironically is just below the equator and was blazing hot.

"But we were extremely lucky because travelling with us was Gordon Moulds, who is Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands and is very knowledgeable indeed.

"He gave us the best briefing we could have hoped for."

When Mr Gale did eventually make it onto the islands, he said he was left in no doubt that "what we are militarily engaged in is both necessary and right".

He added: "The morale out there is great. Any soldier, sailor or airman offered the opportunity to grumble will grumble, but they know they're doing a good job.

"Outside of Afghanistan the Falklands has the largest deployment of UK troops, which surprised me at first.

"But I'm so glad I went because it's made me realise how vital the islands are as a strategic base."

Kent Highway Services

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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **42-44**

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Dive in to some tasty treasures

Rachel McAthy goes fishing for a delicious meal from the coast

AWAY from the farms and fields, the county's coasts house a rich food industry with roots far back into Kent's history.

Deep in the sea waters surrounding the county live fish and shellfish, which supply an array of local fishmongers and restaurants.

Once the fisherman return from their trips, boats piled high with the day's catch, the fish is immediately sold off to agents or wholesalers. But the journey is never far to a county fishmonger, who can then sell on the catch, often on the day it was caught.

During the summer months, Kent's waters come alive with a dazzling array of fishy delights.

From the wild bass, some of the best in the country, to flat fish such as Dover sole and lemon sole, there is no shortage of choice. Fishmongers also receive healthy supplies of mackerel, skate and grey mullet.

Boats go out every few days from harbours across the county, including Broadstairs, Romney and Dungeness.

Local shellfish up for grabs include scallops, often found off Folkestone's coastline, as well as just out of the county in Rye bay.

Less well known, but increasingly popular varieties to be found on the Kent coast includes gurnard, as well as whiting and pollack, which have become a cheap alternative to the threatened cod.

Surprising to some may be the county's lobster, which is a treasured catch for fishermen in Kent, often to be found in Deal and Sandwich.

Straight from the sea, their shell has a beautiful blue sheen. It turns pink when cooked.

Simon Gorecki, owner of Simon the Fish in Canterbury, does his best to support the use of local catches: "When I was a kid we used to have fish all the time, it was so cheap.

"Now trawlermen are having such a hard time the prices have gone up. So it is really important to support local fishermen and mongers, it is our local industry.

"I even have customers who come from London."

He added: "On my part, I try to sell fish which is sustainable and has been line caught. This is my future, so if the fish run out I would be out of work."

Mr Gorecki's fish are sourced direct from boats such as the Luisia Bay and the Suzi Jane who work in the deep sea and shores around the Kent coast. He also sells locally sourced, hand-dived scallops.

Online at www.foodforkent.co.uk you can check out a host of fish, shellfish and smoked fish from Kent fishmongers. All the fish at Food for Kent has been caught using sustainable methods, endorsed by the Marine Stewardship Council.

Star quality of our Kent producers

FOOD and drink producers across Kent were recognised in the annual Great Taste Awards, run by the Guild of Fine Food throughout July.

Seen in the industry as the national benchmark for specialty food and drink, the awards give a three, two or one star rating for the top tastes.

This year, more than 4,800 products were entered from over 1,000 companies. Of these, 639 were awarded one star, 308 were awarded two stars and the elite three stars went to 83 foods.

Within these were a dozen of Kent producers, who were awarded for their high quality food or drink entries.

Owlet Fruit Juice took the top taste award of three stars for its Cox and Bramley apple juice.

Two star winners from Kent included Ramsgate Brewery, for its Gadds' Number 3 Pale Ale, and Anthony Rowcliffe and Son for their green olives stuffed with garlic. There were also many one star awards given to Kent producers, such as Southern Alps, Simply Ice Cream and The Fudgery.

Seafood that's a delight

AN AWARD-winning Kent restaurant is hosting a night of fish delights next weekend.

Ardennes of Faversham will serve customers a platter of fish, including trout pâté, prawns, shrimp cocktail, red snapper, turbot, sea bream and brill.

The fish night meal can also be enjoyed with a glass of sparkling pink wine from Biddenden Vineyards.

Dinner will be served on Saturday and costs £29. For more information call 01795 590008.

In the market for food

A HOST of farmers' markets are taking place across the county, providing an opportunity for a taste of Kent's top produce.

These include events today in Hempstead Valley from 10am to 2pm or Elham from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

There are plenty more markets coming up during the rest of the week, visit www.kentfarmersmarkets.org.uk.

foodforkent.co.uk We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Who wants to be filmed at work?

WHATEVER the reasons given for it, the use of surveillance equipment inside school classrooms is always going to be controversial.

Gravesend Grammar may well be using the technology to help train its staff, but how many of those teachers will really feel comfortable about being filmed during lessons?

And perhaps more importantly, how many of the children who will also be caught on camera have been given the opportunity to say no? Even if they have, most youngsters learn to accept what their teachers say is good for them, even if that may not actually be the case.

Schools are quick to point the finger when pupils are snapped by press photographers or even filmed by their parents at nativity plays and the like, so what makes videoing them in the classroom any different?

Most adults outside the education industry would object to being filmed while they are trying to carry out their work. Teachers and pupils should not have to be the exception to the rule.

Council kebabed

WHEN George Omer Arslanboga opened Kebab Ye in 2004, the last thing he expected was to end up before a High Court judge.

Regardless of who was in the right during his lengthy battle with Bexley council, George should be congratulated for fighting to provide for his wife and family. Here's hoping that following his victory he can put the trauma of the last few years behind him.

OPINION: The power of love

Raising the Union flag; a prayer for the people of Britain; calls for international peace, respect and tolerance – youth leader Yasser Khan is about to alter your perception of Muslims

LOVE for all, hatred for none – that was the message being promoted at a historic convention I attended with more than 27,000 people from 84 countries on a farm in Alton, Hampshire, last the weekend.

Speakers also made a rallying call for unconditional compliance with the laws of the land wherever one lives.

And to demonstrate this commitment, the Union flag was hoisted aloft followed by a prayer for the people of Britain – an event watched by millions via satellite and the internet.

So what? Well, what may surprise you is that organising this mass gathering was a Muslim group which urges its members to make greater efforts to integrate, honour the rights of non-Muslims, and serve humanity selflessly.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is certainly unique. Founded in 1889 by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, an Indian reformer who claimed to be the Promised Messiah prophesied in all major faiths, it is now recognised as the fastest growing denomination in Islam.

The community is one of the earliest Muslim establishments in Britain and opened London's first mosque in 1926.

The mosque in Gillingham has been established for more than 20 years and members are always striving to serve their community. From their origins, the Ahmadi Muslims have interpreted the meaning of jihad as striving to free oneself of impurities for the sake of God.

They condemn all violence in the strongest possible terms and have nurtured a spirit of allegiance to the country in which they reside.

Joining fellow delegates from so many nationalities was an unforgettable experience.

In an age when little time is made for each other, the occasion was a welcome opportunity to strengthen friendships as well as form new ones, and to recharge one's spiritual batteries in an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation.

The vast range of delicious cuisine offered for free, as well as the spectacle of thousands donning their colourful national dress added a festive air to the international proceedings, too.

But the main objective and key message of the convention remained clear.

"As the Qur'an says, you have been raised for the good of mankind – not just for the good of Muslims," said Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Khalifa (supreme head) of the worldwide community.

"Love of your country is a part of your faith. And compliance with the laws of the land is a part of Sharia."

Ahmadis may be small in number compared to other branches in Islam, but their impact globally has been no less profound.

Their constitution requires members to shun "cruelty, mischief and rebellion", and "cause no harm whatsoever to the creatures of God in general, and Muslims in particular, neither by their tongue nor by their hands nor by any other means".

It should not be surprising, then, that this particular expanding movement has never had a problem of radicalism or militancy.

"Islam is a peaceful and loving religion," the Khalifa explained. "However we are treated, we react with peace."

Several parliamentarians and faith leaders also participated in the convention. For me and indeed all other Ahmadi Muslims locally as well as around the world, last weekend was an important development towards better relations between Islam and the West, a refreshing change from the sort of Muslims we usually hear and read about, and evidence that the message of love – however much those inclined towards hate wish to suppress it – is bound to win.

• ***Yasser Khan, from Gillingham, is the youth leader for the Kent Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association.***

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Who pays for the cuts?

We read with great interest that Canterbury council chief executive Colin Carmichael is stating that due to the downturn councillors will have to shave £3.5 million from the city's budget over the next two years.

It would seem from his comments that his suggestions for doing so would be to cut staff numbers ("there is no way our current staffing levels of 850 can be maintained"); cut back on public access to the council ("it costs an average of £25 to deal with a face-to-face transaction in an office but only 25p on the internet" – sorry, but not everyone has access to the internet); increasing the cost of services ("are we charging enough for our services?" – yes you are); and further privatisation ("are there services we are supplying that are being offered by private companies?").

We would suggest economies can be made far easier and with far less impact on public services.

The Canterbury district has already seen serious cuts in public services from this council, most notably the closing of the information centres in Whitstable and Herne Bay and the cutting off of council funding for Whitstable's CAB.

Yet when economic times become tough, it is again the hard-pressed public who are expected to bear the brunt. Could the council not lobby the Government to open up the reserves of cash it has in its housing revenue account (HRA)? According to last year's annual report it was holding £3.75m, and although this year's plan does not state a figure, it does note that the HRA has grown by £1.8m. This year's annual report states Canterbury council holds equity of £364,212. Is it really necessary to sack a quarter of the workforce and put 250 people on the dole to save less than one per cent of what the council is worth?

Should councillors be looking at themselves to see where savings could be made? MPs' expenses seem to have been subjected to acute scrutiny but local government representatives have been left alone. With some KCC councillors claiming upto £12,000 a year in expenses (a wage on its own for many people) it would be interesting to have full figures for our district representatives, and to know the cost of other expenses which could be cut back, such as executives' pay levels, the cost of the Lord Mayor's trappings, and the regular jolly which is the mayor-making ceremony.

Perhaps readers have other ideas where savings can be made by the council, rather than cutting back on our services which we pay for, and rather than adding to already growing unemployment figures.

Dan Allen and Bunny La Roche, Whitstable

Spare the rod and all suffer

Quote from the BBC News Channel: 'Lady Justice Hallett agreed with Mr Justice Roderick Wood of the High Court in Cardiff, saying: "Reasonable physical chastisement of children by parents is not yet unlawful in this country".'

All you parents who are raising your children and allowing them to do anything they like, be it right or wrong, take note of the above.

If your child does something wrong, smack them and make them know it was a bad thing to do. Don't let them grow up knowing they can do as they like.

The more they get away with when young makes them grow into the thugs who roam the streets today, stabbing and killing without the slightest compassion for anybody. The parents of these thugs want to grow up as well. Chastise your child – and perhaps save a life.

John R O'Neon, Folkestone

A simple failure to act

The county council has let down Kent by failing to implement the Sustainable Communities Act. The act would have permitted KCC to create long-term committees with representatives from a variety of groups to assist in the overall goal of increasing Kent's sustainability for the future.

This is absolutely vital in the current recession. KCC should have used the act to engage with and harness the skills of groups and individuals concerned about sustainability in Kent.

It chose instead to note the Act as part of its environmental obligations, which in practice will mean little, if anything, will actually be done. I am amazed such a significant piece of legislation to promote local democracy, community involvement and sustainability was not subject to any engagement by KCC with communities.

Simply putting it on their website alongside 50 other consultations does not constitute engagement. We didn't know about the consultation as it was not publicised and we try to keep an eye on KCC. What chance do individuals or community groups have, especially as the Act has not had the publicity it deserves?

We ask Kent County Council to go beyond a simple consultation and engage properly with community groups and individuals to build ideas for submission.

There is likely to be a further submission date on the Sustainable Communities Act later this year or next and KCC should radically improve publicity when this occurs.

Stuart Jeffery, Kent Green Party

ID cards' snooper state

Privacy campaigners have criticised last week's unveiling of the design of proposed ID cards as a distraction from the real issues behind the scheme.

Home Secretary Alan Johnson plans to go ahead with ID cards and the new database of personal information behind it, despite polls showing that 68 per cent of the population think state databases already hold too much information about them, and 79 per cent believing the £5 billion would be better spent elsewhere.

This is another step towards the snooper state. Anyone accepting one of these cards will be fingerprinted and have their daily lives monitored via a £5bn database gathering details of how they use it.

ID card holders would be forced to report every change in their personal details for the rest of their life, and would never be allowed to hand the card back.

Only three weeks ago the Government enacted fines of up to £1,000 for anyone losing or damaging an ID card, or failing to buy a new one every 10 years. Whitehall's identity cards scheme has no place in our country and must be scrapped immediately.

Ian Taylor, co-ordinator, NO2ID, Dover branch

Letters continued on page 34

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

AWUKU
Daniel and Dinah Awuku celebrate the birth of their son Jedidiah Emmanuel Papa Yaw Anim on 2nd July 2009, brother to Zanetta and Amariah.

MANNING
Colin Manning and Penny Richardson would like to celebrate the birth of their daughter Sophie Elouise Manning born on 21st July 2009, weighing 7lb 7oz.

NEAT
Jaymie and Gary of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Sienna Ruby, born on 6th July 2009 at QEQM. Sister for Finley.

PIKE
Eric and Laura Pike celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Ellie Louise Pike on 13th July 2009, weighing 7lb 5oz.

PITTS
Cerys Erin, wonderful daughter born on 24th July 2009 to Ryan and Karina, and a little sister to Ethan and Finlay.

POMROY
David and Karen celebrate the birth of their daughter Emily Pomroy on 16th July 2009.

SANDERSON
Davey and Hannah of Seasalter are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Lola Afiya, on 27th July 2009 at 4.23am weighing 6lb 3oz.

THOMAS
Kirsty and Alex of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Maisy-Louise, born on 25th July 2009 at QEQM. You are the miracle who we will love and forever.

TOMPSETT
Lewis and Naomi of Faversham are very proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Emily Martha, born on 16th July 2009. A new sister for Alice.

DEATHS

BRANDUM
Michael Henry Brandum of Canterbury passed away peacefully at Kent and Canterbury Hospital on 27th July 2009.A dearly loved husband to Doreen, father to Joanne and Anna, father-in-law to Jon and Paul, grandfather to Dominic and Emily. Will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Funeral service to be held at Barham Crematorium on 10th August at 12.40pm. Family flowers only please but any donations to League of Friends at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, c/o Lyons Funeral Directors Canterbury.

BREWER
Kate Brewer of Meopham Kent born 19th October 1912 died peacefully on 31st July 2009.
A dear much loved lady. She will be sadly missed. Funeral on 11th August 2009. Enquiries to Lewis Solomon Funeral Directors Gravesend.

EVISON
To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

HAMMOND
Peggy Beatrice Hammond of Whitstable passed away peacefully on 25th July 2009 at Kent and Canterbury Hospital. The dearly loved wife of John and sister to June, she will be deeply missed. Sincere thanks to the Paramedics, the Ambulance Crew and everyone at Kent and Canterbury Hospital for their help and kindness. The funeral took place at Barham on Friday August 7th 2009.

LUPTON
The death of Innes Lupton, occured on 29th July 2009. Funeral at Whitstable, Monday 17th August 2009. Please contact Lance Lupton 01227 263004 or lancelupton@yahoo.co.uk

Letters continued from page 33

Any names ring a bell?

My grandmother Margaret (née Craig or Higgins) died in 1955 in Chatham. She was married to a George Arundell in 1934 and they had a son, also called called George Arundell, who was born in 1934.

I believe there may have been a Navy connection. Does anyone know of a George Arundell or have any information on any of the above names? I would be very grateful for any information.

Maureen Hoyland, Dorset (01258 817893)

Taxed to a standstill

Reader James Mason seems to be missing the point on speed limits.

On most non-motorway roads, the speed limits are set by local councillors (who may only be in office a couple of years) backed up by the county highways department, who often come and go in reshuffles.

The police may object to a speed limit reduction, but usually they are ignored, as councillors try to gain favour with voters. The whole thing is an ill-considered mess and is not "carefully considered", as Mr Mason believes.

The speed limit for example, may say 40mph, but you do not drive at one continuous speed, for you would soon be involved in an accident.

You adjust your speed to ever-changing road conditions, but go over this magic figure and you can be prosecuted. Any speed limit is at best only a guide to safe motoring.

About 92 per cent of passenger miles are by road, with trains accounting for about eight-per cent, yet billions in motoring taxes are siphoned off to subsidise railways and create ever shorter journey times, (time seems so important in this context), the new high-speed trains being a local example.

But when it comes to roads, it's all about making journey times longer, with the proliferation of lower speed limits – witness the speed cameras on the M25 and M20 to enforce new lower limits.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Nicely driven home, sir

I agree with Brian MacDowell's opinion regarding cameras at the Dartford crossing.

He voiced much that has been said again and again in KOS Media's letters pages, there being a mass of evidence that these metal muggers are solely for raising revenue.

Indeed some councils have famously given up being tax collectors for the Government and are getting rid of their cameras.

As he rightly points out, government figures only attribute six per cent of accidents to being caused by speeding.

If only they would spend at least as much on the other 94 per cent with other causes, maybe we might get somewhere.

He talked of nothing being done about the north/south bottlenecks, which also contribute to accidents, waste time, waste fuel and add to pollution, and yet we are being hit with a second whammy of cameras.

If it's not about money, why weren't the toll charges abolished when the crossing was paid for. And why were they increased from £1 to £1.50? As has been proved time and time again, especially by our Armed Forces, this Government's only love is money – and lots of it.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Claw back EU billions

The widely reported cuts in public services because of a cash shortage should not be happening. It's disgraceful. If the EU at Brussels was not taking £40 million of British taxpayers' money every day, we could have the best services available anywhere.

But no. Labour, the Tories and Lib Dems are quite content to see this country suffer poverty and distress because of their slavish and stupid devotion to that centralised, undemocratic, dangerous and ruinous set-up called the European Union.

Britain is financing public services in central and eastern Europe and elsewhere by the billions because Brussels chooses to waste our money that way and our politicians just do not care. We must leave this Franco-German dictatorship now because things will only deteriorate even more, believe me.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

Protecting children

According to Government statistics there has been a 15 per cent rise in the number of people in notifying their local authority if they are privately fostering a child, which is encouraging.

However, we estimate there are hundreds more children living in private fostering arrangements in your area that the council knows nothing about. Some of these children may be at risk.

Private fostering describes an arrangement lasting 28 days or more where somebody other than a grandparent, aunt or uncle or other close relative cares for somebody else's child.

By law the local authority must be informed of such arrangements. Most privately fostered children will be well cared for, but some may be highly vulnerable.

To protect children, everyone needs to know what private fostering is and of the need to notify.

For more information, visit our website www.somebodyelseschild.org.uk.

David Holmes, chief executive, British Association for Adoption and Fostering

The National Autistic Society

Go on, be an Angel

I would like to encourage your female readers to sign up as an Autism Angel in the adidas Women's Challenge, which takes place in Hyde Park on Sunday, September 6.

As an Angel, the women taking part will be raising money for the National Autistic Society and raising awareness of autism.

This disabling condition is much more common than people think, with one in every 100 people in the UK having some form of autism.

I know from my own experiences as a mother of my son Harry, who has autism, that the condition can be very hard to deal with and the more awareness that can be raised the better.

As well as the hard times, Harry is also the light of my life and I had the best time last year when I took part in the adidas Women's Challenge with all of the Autism Angels.

So gather together your mates, your mum, sisters, cousins, aunts and even grandparents and please become an Autism Angel by calling 08450 509 001 or email events@nas.org.uk before Saturday, August 15. Men can come along too and cheer the ladies on. It's a great day out for everyone.

Emma Noble, actress, model, presenter and Autism Angel.

Trust needs your help

We at the Meningitis Trust are asking the people of Kent to help us in the fight against meningitis.

Meningitis has been in the news a lot lately – with the fear of it being mistaken for swine flu – but it's important for people to be aware that the disease has never gone away. It still affects thousands of babies, children, teenagers and adults in the UK every year.

We are committed to raising awareness of the disease and its signs and symptoms. It can strike in minutes and kill within hours, so awareness is vital. But we rely on voluntary donations to continue our work, so need your help.

A very generous car dealership – Phoenix Honda, based in Paisley – has kindly donated a new car for us to raffle.

The Honda Jazz will be a 59 plate and is worth more than £10,000. Raffle tickets are £2 each and this money will come straight to us to help with our work.

The raffle is a great way to support us and at only £2 a ticket, the prize could be a once-in-a-lifetime bargain. For more details, visit www.meningitis-trust.org. With a recent survey indicating there are over 500,000 people in the UK living with the impact of meningitis right now, our ongoing work is much needed. Please help us to help them. Many thanks – and good luck.

Anne Currie, Meningitis Trust

Give the dog a home

Anyone who watched Five News' undercover investigation into puppy farming would have been shocked by the depressing and cruel conditions in which breeding dogs are kept.

Barren, dark pens house mother dogs, which are repeatedly made pregnant until they are spent.

Their offspring end up in pet shops where they are sold to people unaware of the suffering involved in this industry, which has profit and not the welfare of animals at its core.

What many readers may not have considered is the bigger picture – that is, for every dog (or cat, or rabbit or any other pet), produced by a breeder and sold through a pet shop or private advert, another animal in a shelter is denied a loving home.

Thousands of animals are euthanased by shelters every year because homes cannot be found for them.

Anyone who has the time, money, space and commitment to give an animal a home should always rescue one from a shelter and not buy from a breeder.

Battersea Dogs' Home and the Celia Hammond Animal Trust are both excellent places to start.

Fiona Pereira, by email

End coursing cruelty

It's decision time for hare coursing in Ireland. This is the month when, traditionally, the minister for the environment decides whether or not to allow another season of this legalised cruelty.

His decision will relate specifically to the granting of a licence to the country's coursing clubs allowing them to capture hares for use as live bait in coursing.

If, as in previous years, the department opts to authorise the hare-netting, coursing events will again be staged nationwide from the end of September.

At these, the hares will be forced to run from greyhounds in large, wired enclosures, to escape through a narrow hatch ... or be mauled, injured, killed or tossed about like broken dolls – all for the purpose of fun and gambling.

Many of the targeted hares will never see coursing day. They will die of injuries while being netted or in the course of the unnatural captivity to which these wild creatures are subjected.

If, however, the minister withholds the hare-netting licence, there can be no coursing.

Without hares to course, the baiting events would have to be cancelled. There are two factors that offer a glimmer of hope to the long-suffering hare.

The first is the obvious fact that Irish environment minister John Gormley is leader of a party pledged to banning hare coursing.

The second factor is the Irish Government's official acceptance that the Irish hare is now an endangered species.

The manifold threats to its survival as a species include loss of habitat resulting from urbanisation and the downsides of modern agriculture, but hunting and coursing activities increase the mounting pressure on this gentle and inoffensive creature.

We appeal to anyone who shares our view of hare coursing to email the Irish minister for the environment, John Gormley, asking him to ban this horrible blood sport. Send your messages to minister@environ.ie.

John Fitzgerald, Campaign for the Abolition of Cruel Sports

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By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Less uni places mean students facing challege at clearing time

PROSPECTIVE university students facing a shortage of clearing places at the county's universities have been urged not to panic, but to act quickly.

Steven Holdcroft, head of admissions and recruitment at the University of Kent, said a 10 per cent increase in applications nationally coupled with the Government funding fewer places meant there would be more competition in the clearing process this year.

"It will be a demanding and challenging time for students who do not have a place," he said.

"I think the important thing is to try and do as much research as possible about the institution.

"Do not make a rush decision just because you've got an offer. Take 24 hours to think about it and to find out if you are going to be happy there.

"The advice is not to panic, but do not leave it until the weekend to make these phone calls."

The clearing process begins on A-levels results day, which is August 20, and is traditionally for students who do not receive the right grades needed for the first and reserve choices on their UCAS application form.

They get the chance to search through the remaining places online to find a different course.

Mr Holdcroft said that this year, under a new UCAS procedure, students who exceed their conditional offer will have the opportunity to 'trade up'. They can apply for places at universities that require higher grades while still holding onto their original acceptance.

He said: "If you do not get you first choice and insurance choices, now is the time to act doing a bit of research and finding out.

Shortlist

"Even at this stage start thinking where else could you go and almost have a shortlist drawn up before calling to target these institutions once the results are out."

But he warned: "There is a cap on the numbers that universities can recruit and there is potentially going to be a 30,000 deficit at national level," he said.

"For universities like Kent we are going to have a lot fewer places in clearing. We saw a 20 per cent increase in applications, which is well above the national figure."

Mr Holdcroft said clearing places at the university's two campuses in Medway and Canterbury would be full after the first weekend following results day, which is a Thursday.

"Check vacancies on the UCAS website and phone as quickly as possible," he added. "Take a clear look at vacancies, what they are offering and then before making that decision do online research.

"You have to study there for the next three or four years."

The University of Kent's freephone clear line is 0800 021 3126 and opens from 8.30am on A-levels results day August 20.

Or visit www.kent.ac.uk/clearing. The university is holding clearing open days at both the Medway and Canterbury campuses on August 22 from 10am-3pm.

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Free course gives leadership lesson

NON-EXECUTIVE board members in Kent have been urged to sign up for a new course that shows people how to make the jump from local to national leadership.

About Time is run by the not-for-profit international leadership development organisation Common Purpose and will be held from November 12-13 and again in March, 2010.

Adirupa Sengupta, programme director for the course, said: "The course is an opportunity for anyone to make the leap from local to national leadership. It is a free course that will help you develop invaluable skills, not only to anyone on a local board, but to those who want to lead at national level."

It was launched after a study of civic leaders found that less than one in eight people surveyed held a national board appointment, but nine in 10 would be interested in working at a higher level.

To apply contact 0207 608 8119 or email abouttime@commonpurpose.org.uk.

Training vital for recession's end

THE head of a Kent bricklaying company has spoken of the need to keep providing on the job training despite the economic downturn.

Dax Smith, managing director of Chatham-based Dax Brickwork Contractors, said that although the construction industry was suffering in the recession, it was vital to continue to provide skilled workers for the future.

"We're determined to get through this recession, but that doesn't mean abandoning our commitment to providing training," he said. "Training isn't just a one-off, it's an ongoing process that reaps its rewards."

Dax Brickwork has taken on a young apprentice and three work-experience placements this year. The company has also seen 15 of its experienced workers achieve NVQs in brickwork and four qualified as occupational supervisors.

Mr Smith said: "Providing employer-led training is not only crucial to their future, but to the future of the industry."

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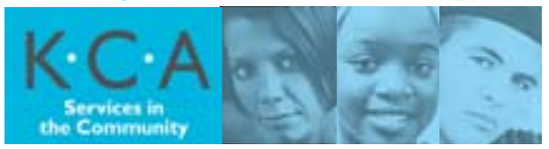
Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference: 589.

Closing date: 21 August 2009.

Interview date: 2 September 2009 in Maidstone.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



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Kent

We are seeking to appoint an Area Manager to join our senior management team in Kent. The role is to ensure the Registered Managers are supported and developed in delivering a high level of childcare within our residential homes across Kent and into SE London

Essential Specification:

A firm foundation in childcare with a Dip.SW / RMA or equivalent qualification.
Substantial knowledge and experience of supporting children who 'are looked after' and the ECM Framework.
Previous Residential / Social work management experience.
A good knowledge and working understanding of National Minimum Standards and the Ofsted inspection process.
Strong motivation and leadership skills.
This role offers an excellent salary (dependant on knowledge and qualifications) and benefit package.

Home Managers

Wanting to further your career? We invite applications from knowledgeable and qualified candidates for this role to ensure that our high level of care practice is maintained within existing staff teams. You will be responsible for ensuring that you lead and develop your team, to meet our expectations on the service our organisation support.
The role offers good salary and benefit packages, including Health Plan, Pension and support from Area Managers.

Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:
Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ
01843 823762 or email jackie.brandon@ethelberthomes.co.uk

We are an equal opportunities employer

Assistant Manager

Required For Residential Care Home

In Folkestone

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person.
Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

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kent.medway@abacuscare.co.uk
or visit www.abacuscare.com

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Please contact Andrea Thorneycroft 01892 773611 andrea@candhfabrics.co.uk

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for 3 nights per week to join our team in a stimulating and rewarding environment caring for adults with a physical disability.

For more information and application forms please telephone: **01303 872289**

All applicants will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau check.

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Require an Experienced RGN for night duty & RGN for day duty
For an application pack Please contact Philippa or Marion on
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Tel: 01304 611312

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Activities Co-ordinator
Care experience preferred but not essential. Full driving licence required. Min 25 hours per week

For more information
Please call – Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527

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Excellent rates of pay & commission
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Email: eileen.laherty@njch.co.uk

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Saint George's

Church of England School
Humanities College

Founded 1580

Meadow Road, Gravesend
Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082
Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

Additional Educational Needs HLTA

KS6 Pts 17-20 £18,471 - £20,262 (pro-rata)
37 hours per week / Term Time Only + 5 days (39 weeks)

We are seeking an experienced HLTA to join our AEN team. Applicants will need to have experience of working with small groups of children and relevant qualifications would be beneficial. This post also includes an administrative role within the AEN department for which good IT skills will be required.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.
Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 02 September 2009

In partnership with The Dover, Deal and Sandwich 14-19 Planning Forum, South Kent College is seeking to appoint the following to work within the new Dover Construction Skills Centre in Whitfield, which is to open in September 2009:

Trainer

(Fixed-term until 31/07/2011) Variable Hours Ref: T1395

You will deliver a co-ordinated, integrated construction craft programme to students between entry level and level 2. You will be qualified to C&G Craft, NVQ Level 2 or equivalent in Bricklaying, Painting and Decorating or Carpentry and Joinery, and have or be committed to obtaining a teaching qualification and A1 Award or equivalent. Recent and relevant industrial experience in general building work is essential as well as excellent communication skills and a commitment to student success.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Monday 17th August 2009. Interviews will be held Monday 24th August 2009 at South Kent College, Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone.

For further information or an application pack please contact the Human Resources Department on 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following areas:

Lecturer in Sport Ref: P0102

Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 per annum/pro rata. Full time and part time positions available

The College is looking for passionate and enthusiastic professionals to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidates will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Previous applicants need not apply.

ICT Technical I.L.T Support Engineer Ref: P0653

Salary: £18,433 - £23,640 per annum

The College is looking for passionate and enthusiastic professionals to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidates will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date: Friday 21 August 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College | Investors in Diversity | Positive About Disabled People | RBLI | Investors in People

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Part Time Tutors

Salary:LNFA 1-3 (£19.49 - £24.99 per hour)

Japanese Tutor Ref CA0724E
To teach classes at beginners or elementary levels.

Family Literacy and Numeracy Tutor Ref CA0725E
To plan and deliver literacy and numeracy courses to parents and carers in schools and community venues.

Skills for Life Literacy Ref CA0726E 18.5 hours per week

Skills for Life Numeracy Ref CA0727E 18.5 hours per week

We are recruiting for enthusiastic and committed Skills for Life tutors to teach across all levels from Entry Level 3 to Level 2. Delivery will take place in a range of settings including Train to Gain, family literacy/numeracy, Fast Track to Level 2 and community projects.

For all part-time tutor posts you need to be qualified or highly skilled in the subject specialism, qualified to teach adults. If you do not hold a Cert Ed, DTLLS or PTLLS, you must be prepared to start on a training course at the first available opportunity within your employment and definitely within the first year, a good communicator able to negotiate and support personalised learning within a group learning environment, prepared to work flexibly according to the needs of the Service and the learner to ensure that the course is fully delivered and able to work at any venue within the Medway area as required

Medway Adult and Community Learning Service is committed to the National Skills for Life Strategy and operates a whole organisation approach to it. All staff are expected to have personal competence in English and Maths at Level 2. If you do not currently have evidence of achievement at this level, we will support successful appointees to undertake the Adult Literacy and Numeracy qualifications within the first year of working for us.

Medway Adult and Community Learning Service is committed to safeguarding and promotes the welfare of all learners and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure, satisfactory medical clearance and personal references.

For an application pack for any of the part-time tutor posts please contact Christine Osborne on 01634 338423 or email christine.osborne@medway.gov.uk

Closing date: 21 August 2009

Medway Adult and Community Learning Service

Head of Quality and Curriculum Ref:CA0723B

Salary: LNFA 19-23 (£37,239 - £41,414)

Location: Medway

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and dynamic individual to lead on quality improvement and curriculum development for MACLS. The post is an exciting and challenging one and will demand an excellent understanding of the role of adult and community learning in the Further Education system.

The post-holder will be responsible for ensuring that the curriculum is planned and developed to meet Service targets; lead effective quality improvement across the Service including the commissioning of staff development and oversee the arrangements for IAG and and Matrix re-accreditation.

The successful candidate will be qualified to degree level or equivalent and hold a management qualification such as DMS together with substantial relevant management experience, up-to-date with developments in the further education environment and the quality standards required by LSC and Ofsted in adult and community learning, an excellent communicator, prepared to work flexibly according to the needs of the Service and able to work at any venue within the Medway area as required.

For an informal discussion, please contact Sue Hopkins on 01634 338442 or 338439 or email sue.hopkins@medway.gov.uk For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-1pm or **01634 332843** 24-hour answer-phone. **Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk** quoting the reference.

Closing date: 21 August 2009

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Requires EXPERIENCED COOK
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Great Opportunity for CHEF / COOK To cook fresh food for friendly family-owned pub. Full or Part Time position available to include evenings, weekend, and split shifts. Start wage £7.50 p/h Contact us on 01474 872300 or e-mail val@thewhiteswanpub.co.uk
To apply/more information:
White Swan (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 872300
Email val@thewhiteswanpub.co.uk

Coffeeshop Supervisor

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Required at Canterbury Store, excellent customer service skills & food standards. Staff Management. No late nights. No Sundays.
To apply/more information:
Andrea Thorneycroft
C & H Fabrics
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 773611
Email andrea@candhfabrics.co.uk

Food Service Assistants

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Requires Food Service Assistants (P/T and Sat). Excellent Customer service skills. No late nights. No Sundays.
To apply/more information:
Andrea Thorneycroft
C & H Fabrics
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 773611
Email andrea@candhfabrics.co.uk

Part-time cook

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home Require. Part-time cook Hours - Saturday and Sunday - 07:30-18:30m and 3 afternoons a week - 14:00-18:30 and Activities Co-ordinator. Care experience preferred but not essential. Good organisational skills also required to include arranging day trips and acitivies. Min 25 hours per week For more information. Please call - Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527.
To apply/more information:
Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Class leaders

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £1,000-£2,500 per month
Interested In Health & Wellness? Class leaders wanted for Arriba! Wellness Clubs £1,000-£2,500 per month F/T or P/T Full Training Available Call Sara on 01795 532201 www.arriba-classleaders.co.uk.
To apply/more information:
Sara Jane Marmont
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 532201
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (ACR) Instructor

Medway
Salary: c£30k plus package
Closing Date: 10th August 2009
MKC Training Services Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of MidKent College, delivers the trade, technical and professional training for the Royal Engineers at Brompton Barracks. This 30 year contract was awarded in 2008 and following a review we now require an additional ACR Instructor to join our team at the RSME. This is a great opportunity for a qualified and experienced ACR Engineer to move into a teaching role in a professional and disciplined environment where you will find young soldiers eager to learn.You do not need to have formal teaching experience as you will be supported to gain teaching qualifications and will attend relevant courses to build your communication skills. You should hold City & Guilds 207/2570 or NVQ Level 3 - Air Conditioning and Refrigeration or equivalent and have completed an indentured apprenticeship. (Applications would be welcomed from any Royal Engineer Class1 - HVAC/ACR) A full Job Description and Application form can be found at www.midkent.ac.uk (follow RSME vacancies) or you can forward a CV to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk To discuss your interest in this post or for additional information, please call Ken Pullan on 07725128661. Completed applications should be forwarded to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725128661
Email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS

Thanet
Salary: TBA
Swimtime are a national company that teach swimming lessons in 300 pools across the country. WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR ASA OR STA LEVEL 2 SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS IN THANET FOR THE FOLLOWING LESSONS: Mother & Babies/Toddler Swimming lessons for Children Swimming lessons for Adults. FOR AFTER SCHOOL & WEEKEND WORK FOR OUR SEPTEMBER TERM CALL NOW FOR FULL DETAILS 07949 966958 – 08700 460427.
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Salary: £20.37 - £27.17 per hour
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Lecturer in Musical Theatre

Medway
Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 pro rata
Closing Date: Wednesday 19 August 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0654
Tel: 01634 884402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Business Management (Higher Education)

Medway
Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 pro rata
Closing Date: Wednesday 19 August 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0653
Tel: 01634 884402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Sport

Medway
Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 per annum/pro rata
Closing Date: Friday 21 August 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0102
Tel: 01634 884402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Part Time Tutors

Medway
Salary: £19.49 - £24.99 per hour
Closing Date: 21 August 2009
To apply/more information:
Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: CA0726E & CA0727E
Tel: 01634 338423
Email
christine.osborne@medway.gov.uk

Head of Quality and Curriculum

Medway
Salary: £37,239 - £41,414
Closing Date: 21 August 2009
To apply/more information:
Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: CA0723B
Tel: 01634 333333
Email jobs@medway.gov.uk

Trainer

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Monday 17th August 2009
To apply/more information:
South Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: T1395
Tel: 0845 207 8222
Email
humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

Additional Educational Needs HLTA

Gravesend
Salary: £18,471 - £20,262 (pro-rata)
Closing Date: 02 September 2009 KS6 Pts 17-20 £18,471 - £20,262 (pro-rata) 37 hours per week / Term Time Only + 5 days (39 weeks). We are seeking an experienced HLTA to join our AEN team. Applicants will need to have experience of working with small groups of children and relevant qualifications would be beneficial. This post also includes an administrative role within the AEN department for which good IT skills will be required. Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks. Contact us to request further details and an application form. Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 561536 Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information:
St George's CoE School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Estate Agency, Property

Sales Negotiators

Kent
Salary: TBA
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To apply/more information:
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Lettings Negotiators

Kent
Salary: TBA
OPPORTUNITIES IN KENT/SURREY/SUSSEX AREAS • Sales Negotiators • Lettings Negotiators • Property Managers • Mortgage Consultants. Are you keen and ambitious? Looking for a career with a professional company? Are you dedicated to providing a top class memorable service and want to stand out in a crowd? Have you got what it takes to be one of tomorrows' managers? Connells are looking for quality people to join our fast expanding team that is one of the most successful Company's around. Excellent Remuneration Package Offered. Interested? Apply in writing to: ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk Or send your CV with covering letter to: Ynés Anderson, Connells, 30 High Street, Horley, Surrey RH6 7BB
To apply/more information:
Connells
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk

Property Managers

Kent
Salary: TBA
OPPORTUNITIES IN KENT/SURREY/SUSSEX AREAS • Sales Negotiators • Lettings Negotiators • Property Managers • Mortgage Consultants. Are you keen and ambitious? Looking for a career with a professional company? Are you dedicated to providing a top class memorable service and want to stand out in a crowd? Have you got what it takes to be one of tomorrows' managers? Connells are looking for quality people to join our fast expanding team that is one of the most successful Company's around. Excellent Remuneration Package Offered. Interested? Apply in writing to: ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk Or send your CV with covering letter to: Ynés Anderson, Connells, 30 High Street, Horley, Surrey RH6 7BB.
To apply/more information:
Connells
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
ynes.anderson@connells.co.uk

Mortgage Consultants

Kent
Salary: TBA
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Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

Versatile Staff

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Salary: TBA
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WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

Maidstone
Salary: £5.73 per hour
Closing Date: 24th August 2009
WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT Maidstone, from £5.73 per hour dependant on experience Established in 1984, we are Kent's largest independent motor components distributor covering SE London and Kent from our six depots. Our Maidstone Branch is seeking a hard working and enthusiastic individual to pick items for delivery and help with other warehouse duties. You will need to have experience in a busy warehouse environment, be willing to work Saturdays and be able to check parts accurately against order notes. To apply, please forward your CV to humanresources@scmf.co.uk, or alternatively call 0208 308 6812 for an application form. WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.
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Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 308 6812
Email
humanresources@scmf.co.uk

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

ICT Technical I.L.T Support Engineer

Medway
Salary: £18,433 - £23,640 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 21 August 2009
ICT Technical I.L.T Support Engineer Ref: P0653 Salary: £18,433 - £23,640 per annum The College is looking for

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passionate and enthusiastic professionals to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidates will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Previous applicants need not apply. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0653
Tel: 01634 884402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Customer Service Agents

Kent
Salary: £13,819
To apply/more information:
South Eastern Railway
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email careers@
southeasternrailway.co.uk

Experienced Waitstaff

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
WANTED Experienced Waitstaff for Ramsgate's newest and best restaurant. Please call: 01843 851515
To apply/more information:
Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 851515
Email harrietleigh@gmail.com

Motor Trade, Driver

Car Technician

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Eclipse Engineering, a division of Eclipse Recovery Services require a qualified Vehicle Technician to work in our busy workshops alongside our existing team. The successful candidate should possess multifranchise car/light van experience and will be required to demonstrate their ability to carry out servicing and repairs to a high standard. This is a permanent position with remuneration dependant upon experience. Candidates must be over 21 and have a full clean driving licence. Apply in writing to: H R Director Eclipse Recovery Services Ltd, The Warren, Ratling Road Aylesham, Canterbury Kent CT3 3BD.
To apply/more information:
Eclipse Recovery Services Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

SERVICE ADVISOR

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Baileys Nissan Canterbury require a SERVICE ADVISOR Previous experience essential. Pleasant, helpful personality is also essential. Please contact David Jackson, Service Manager on 01227 766777 BAILEYS CANTERBURY WESTMINSTER ROAD, VAUXHALL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 1YY TEL: 01227 766777 e-mail: david.jackson@baileysnissan.co.uk www.baileysnissan.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Baileys Nissan
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 766777
Email
david.jackson@baileysnissan.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Care Assistant

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
Bethany Lodge Care Home, Dymchurch Requires a Care Assistant. To join our team in caring for adults with a physical disability. This is a full time position and involves shift work.NVQ is an advantage but not essential as training will be given. Enhanced rates for NVQ 2 and 3 Tel 01303 872289 for more information and an application form. All applicants will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau check.
To apply/more information:
Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 872289
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Assistant Manager

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, And Experience in the role above. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 Subject to satisfactory CRB Check.
To apply/more information:
Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Nurses and Care Workers

Kent
Salary: TBA
Abacus Care requires: Nurses and Care Workers to work within abroad range of residential care services Competitive Rates Minimum 6 Months experience & own transport required. For more information Call or email 01227 709468 kent.medway@abacuscare.co.uk or visit www.abacuscare.com
To apply/more information:
Abacus Care Kent & Medway
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 709468
Email
kent.medway@abacuscare.co.uk

Nurses and Carers

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
NICHOLAS JAMES CARE HOMES Ltd Dale Road Southfleet Kent DA13 9NX Registered Nurses,Carers, Domestic Staff required by the above company for homes in the Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay area. For further details please contact: Eileen Laherty Group Manager Email: eileen.laherty@njch.co.uk Mob: 07970051698.
To apply/more information:
Nicholas James Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07970051698
Email eileen.laherty@njch.co.uk

Domestic Staff

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
NICHOLAS JAMES CARE HOMES Ltd Dale Road Southfleet Kent DA13 9NX Registered Nurses,Carers, Domestic Staff required by the above company for homes in the Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay area. For further details please contact: Eileen Laherty Group Manager Email: eileen.laherty@njch.co.uk Mob: 07970051698.
To apply/more information:
Nicholas James Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07970051698
Email eileen.laherty@njch.co.uk

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: Salary from £15,250
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8841
Email
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com

SUPPORT WORKERS

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £13,250 pa
Is this the job for you? ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require for our new homes in BOBBING & ISLE OF SHEPPEY the following staff to complement our team: SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary £13,250 • 35 hours per week We also require BANK WORKERS For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail michelle.jenkins@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8841.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8841
Email
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com

Vacancies filled fast online with
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £13,250
Is this the job for you? ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require for our new homes in BOBBING & ISLE OF SHEPPEY the following staff to complement our team: SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary £13,250 • 35 hours per week We also require BANK WORKERS For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail michelle.jenkins@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8841.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8841
Email
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com

BANK WORKERS

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: TBA
Is this the job for you? ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require for our new homes in BOBBING & ISLE OF SHEPPEY the following staff to complement our team: SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary £13,250 • 35 hours per week We also require BANK WORKERS For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail michelle.jenkins@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8841.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8841
Email
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com

Registered Nurse

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
Required for 3 nights per week to join our team in a stimulating and rewarding environment, caring for adults with a physical disability. For more information and application forms please telephone: 01303 872289. All applicants will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau check.
To apply/more information:
Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 872289
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Care Assistant/Night Care Assistant

Sandwich
Salary: TBA
2/3 days per week.
To apply/more information:
Upton House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 611312
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Community Drug Workers

Faversham
Salary: £21,306 – £27,573 + ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170
Closing Date: 21 August 2009
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 589
Tel: 01795 590635
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Experienced RGN

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Poplars Nursing Home Require an Experienced RGN for night duty & RGN for day duty For an application pack Please contact Philippa or Marion on 01622 752872
To apply/more information:
The Populars Nursing Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 752872
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Activities Co-ordinator

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home Require. Part-time cook Hours - Saturday and Sunday - 07:30-18:30m and 3 afternoons a week - 14:00-18:30 and Activities Co-ordinator Care experience preferred but not essential. Good organisational skills also required to include arranging day trips and acitivies. Min 25 hours per week For more information. Please call - Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527
To apply/more information:
Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

Bus Driver

Gravesend
Salary: £14,099 to £15,984 per annum pro-rata
Closing Date: 17th August 2009
New Kent Scheme Grade 3 - Points 7 to 11 We have a vacancy for a part-time Driver.The successful candidate will be responsible for transporting pupils to and from the school at the beginning and end of the day and for overseeing the school vehicles.There will also be opportunities to assist with maintenance and caretaking duties. 20 hours per week term-time only. The successful candidate will need to be flexible and self-motivated, have good communication skills and a valid mini-bus licence. For a job description and application form please contact the headteacher, Mrs Pam Jones. Ifield School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Appointment to this position will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check.
To apply/more information:
Pam Jones
Ifield District Special School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 365485
Email ifieldschool@aol.com

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Accounts Clerk

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
The AA Clifton Ltd group of companies are a small group of family businesses operating at a quick pace. The role is for someone who is honest, responsible, hardworking, but above all flexible. This would be a part-time role to complete the business accounts and general administration of the companies. The role would fall under the responsibility and supervision of the office manager, in the various secretarial and office functions. Other related duties may be assigned at the discretion of the office manager. For more information, please email: alan@aaclifton.ltd.uk or write to: Alan Clifton-Holt, AA Clifton Ltd, Haguelands Farm, Burmarsh, Romney Marsh, Kent. TN29 0JR.
To apply/more information:
A A Clifton
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email alan@aaclifton.ltd.uk

TELESALES

Margate
Salary: £300-£500pw
TELESALES £300-£500pw and more! NO EXPERIENCE? FULL TRAINING PROVIDED!! Experienced Telesales up to £800pw and more! Basic plus bonus plus commission. Rapidly expanding company based in Margate seeks positive and self-motivated individuals to sell our unique award-winning products to UK businesses over the phone. Mon-Fri, 09.00 - 17.00 only Contact James on 020 7482 8895 or by e-mail with cv at info@cciglobal.eu.
To apply/more information:
CCI
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 020 7482 8895
Email info@cciglobal.eu

Sales Consultants

Dartford
Salary: TBA
2 x full time and 2 x part time Sales Consultants required to work in one of UK's luxury jewellery Boutiques opening soon in The Bluewater Shopping Centre. Candidates must have experience with in the luxury retail sector and jewellery experience advantageous. Excellent rates of pay & commision please call Jo on 07511551799 or alternatively forward your CV to jo@weneedsomebody.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Somebody Recruitment
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07511551799
Email jo@weneedsomebody.co.uk

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Minibus Driver

Chatham
Salary: £6.50/hour
Minibus Drivers required to cover holiday, sickness and adhoc work for our client at several of their sites throughout Medway. Duties involve transportation of passengers to and from designated destinations. Previous experience is preferred. It is also advantageous to have Midas training and a CRB check. Working hours can be over Monday to Sunday.
To apply/more information:
Andy or Alex
Best Connection Agency
Quoting Job Ref: Phoenix 3
Tel: 01622 664999
Email maidstone@
thebestconenction.co.uk

Class 2 ADR Driver

Ashford
Salary: £8.75/hr
Class 2 Driver required for our client in Sittingbourne. You will be required to carry out deliveries and collections of gas cylinders to and from private addresses. This job will involve handballing cylinders in excess of 25kg. Hours of work are Monday to Friday with possible weekends, 0600 start. Applicants will require a current ADR licence, a digital tachograph card and be able to provide references. This is a 2 month contract witht the possibilty of becoming permanent afterwards.
To apply/more information:
Alex
Best Connection Agency
Quoting Job Ref: Phoenix4
Tel: 01622 664999
Email maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
THE ACTION GROUP SERVICES LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 06139526

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we, Ian Yerrill and Bernard Hoffman both of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 3 August 2009.
B Hoffman and I Yerrill, Joint Liquidators

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for variation of a Premises Licence
We CLW Taverns Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Canterbury City Council, Licensing Section, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW for variation of the premises licence in respect of the following licensable activities:

1. Sale of Alcohol
2. The provision of late night refreshment
3. The opening times of the premises

In respect of the premises situated at Church Hill, Harbledown, Kent CT2 9AB and known as Old Coach and Horses.

The application can be viewed at the offices of Canterbury City Council, Licensing Section, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW (telephone number 01227 862000) during normal office hours (www.Canterbury.gov.uk).

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 2nd September 2009.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere,
Leybourne,
West Malling, Kent.
ME19 5QP

Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF THE MANAGING DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT DPD; AND MANAGING DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT DPD

CHANGES TO THE PROPOSALS MAP TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

Statutory Instrument No.1371 the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England)

(Amendment) Regulations 2008 - Regulation 30

Notice of Submission of the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document (MDE DPD).

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has prepared a development plan document entitled Managing Development and the Environment (MDE DPD) and accompanying Changes to the Proposals Map. The MDE DPD includes a suite of policies that reflect the local distinctiveness of the Borough.

Copies of the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document and supporting documentation are available for public inspection free of charge at The Council Offices.

Gibson Building Gibson Drive Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4LZ	Tonbridge Castle Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BG
Between 8.30am and 5pm (Mon – Fri)	Between 8.30am and 5pm Mon –Fri Saturdays 9.30am and 4pm Sunday 10.30am and 4pm

Copies are also available for information at all libraries in the Tonbridge & Malling Borough area. Check with the library for opening times and days. The documents can also be viewed and downloaded from the Council's website www.tmbc.gov.uk.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/01822/LB – Angel Inn Addington Green Addington West Malling ME19 5BB – Mr Graham Bayfield is applying for Listed Building Application: 3 no. Sign written adverts directly on to the external face of the building, 1 no. pole mounted panel sign, 1 no. directional sign and 1 no. menu case. Reason: LB CA

TM/09/01794/FL – The Downs House Green Lane Trottiscliffe West Malling ME19 5DX – Mr And Mrs Wallis are applying for rear conservatory. Reason: CA HH

TM/09/01333/FL – Bowyers Field Pilgrims Way Wrotham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7NN – Mr Alan Hogg is applying for two storey rear and side extensions, ground floor side extension and enlargement of garage with office accommodation in roof. Reason: DEPART

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan
HH	Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 30 August 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
9 August 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

Highways - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS) (BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (SPEED LIMITS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 7) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the Order introduces a 30 mph speed limit on the following lengths of road.

BLIBY LANE

From the junction with Finn Farm Road and Cheeseman's Green Lane for a distance of approximately 50 metres in a southerly direction.

CHEESEMAN'S GREEN LANE

From the junction with Bliby Lane and Finn Farm Road for a distance of approximately 460 metres in an easterly direction

FINN FARM ROAD

From a point 50 metres west of the junction with Violet Way to the junction with Bliby Lane and Cheeseman's Green Lane.

The Order was signed on 5 August and will come into force 10 August 2009.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, between 9.00am and 5pm, at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Invicta House, Maidstone.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TRINITY ROAD, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF RIGHT HAND TURNS) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to prohibit the right turn movement from Trinity Road, Ashford into Lower Pemberton Road.

The purpose of the scheme is to maintain road safety and to assist maintenance of traffic flow in the area, following the construction of the new Eureka Park Office Development on Lower Pemberton Road. An alternative route for access to the development is available via the roundabout 100 metres to the south.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads affected may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 1XX and Ashford Borough Council offices, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, TN23 1PL.

Anyone wishing to support, or object to this proposal should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and reference no "B0821200" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 21st September 2009.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ROCKY BOURNE ROAD AND CHERRY ORCHARD LANE, ALDINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Rocky Bourne Road and Cherry Orchard Lane, Aldington as described in columns 1 & 2 of the Schedule to this Order, on or after 12 August 2009, for an estimated period of two weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in column 3 of the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative route	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Rocky Bourne Road	Between the junctions with Cherry Orchard Lane and B2067 Bonnington Road	Cherry Orchard Lane, New Road Hill, B2067 Bonnington Road and Rocky Bourne Road	From 12 August 2009 for up to one week
Phase 2			
Rocky Bourne Road and Cherry Orchard Lane	Rocky Bourne Road between the junction of Bourne Road and B2067 Bonnington Road Cherry Orchard Lane at the junction with Rocky Bourne Road	Rocky Bourne Road, Mill Lane, New Road Hill, (Cherry Orchard Lane) B2067 Bonnington Road and Rocky Bourne Road	From 19 August 2009 for up to one week

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOXGLOVE ROAD AND CRADLE BRIDGE DRIVE, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the constuction of a new wastewater pipeline, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Foxglove Road and Cradle Bridge Drive, Ashford, as described in columns 1 & 2 of the Schedule to this Order, on or after 14 August 2009, for an estimated period of 3 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as shown in column 3 of the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative route	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Foxglove Road and Cradle Bridge Drive	Foxglove Road between the junction with Harvey Road into Cradle Bridge Drive up to house no.26	Cradle Bridge Drive, Sandilands and Foxglove Road	From 14 August 2009 for up to two weeks
Phase 2			
Cradle Bridge Drive	Between properties 19 and 26	Cradle Bridge Drive	From 17 August 2009 for up to three weeks

This Order will come into force from 10 August 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HUNTER AVENUE, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new wastewater pipeline, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Hunter Avenue, Ashford, as described in columns 1 & 2 of the Schedule to this Order, on or after 10 August 2009, for an estimated period of five weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in column 3 of the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative route	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Hunter Avenue	Between the junction with Hunter Close and the junction with Eastern and Western Gardens	Hunter Avenue, Osborne Road, Breadlands Road, Twelve Acres and Hunter Avenue	From 10 August 2009 for up to three weeks
Phase 2			
Hunter Avenue	Between the junction with Eastern and Western Gardens and the junction with Orion Way	Hunter Avenue, Osborne Road, Breadlands Road, Twelve Acres and Hunter Avenue	From 24 August 2009 for up to three weeks

This Order will come into force from 10 August 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(KING STREET, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because sewer connection works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street from its junction at Cobden Place to the Northern Side of its junction with Knotts Lane on or after 24 August 2009 for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for traffic will be as follows: Local Traffic via Orange Street, Palace Street, Borough and St Radigunds Street.

Through Traffic via St Radigunds Street, The Causeway, St Stephens Road, Kingsmead Road, Northgate, New Ruttington Lane, Union Place, Union Street then as local traffic above.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WESTBERE LANE, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new cabling works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic at 34 Westbere Lane on or after 24 August 2009 for an estimated period of 1 week or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Westbere Lane, Staines Hill, Island Road and Bushy Hill Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PETT BOTTOM ROAD, UPPER HARDRES) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because a trench is required for a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pett Bottom Road at its junction with Manns Hill, near Lynsore Court on or after 10 August 2009 for an estimated period of 1 week or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Manns Hill, The Street Bossingham, Hardres Court Road and Bursted Hill.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
SPITAL STREET AND WEST HILL DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Spital Street and West Hill, Dartford as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 10th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be as noted in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the installation of a new water main.

SCHEDULE 1

Road Name	Extent	Date	Diversion
Spital Street	Junction with Highfield Road and Highfield Road North	10th August for 5 weeks	Spital Street (eastbound), Hythe Street, Home Gardens (eastbound), Station approach roundabout, Home Gardens (westbound), Westgate Road and Highfield Road North
West Hill	Junction with Highfield Road	10th August for 5 weeks	Lowfield Street, Princes Road and Shepherds lane no right turn from West Hill into Priory Hill

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BEAN ROAD/MOUNT ROAD GREENHITHE AND SWANSCOMBE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Bean Road junction of Mount Road Greenhithe and Swanscombe.

The Order will become effective on 10th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Mounts Road, Bean Road (southbound) B255, Bluewater parkway (roundabout), Bean Road (northbound) B255, London Road (roundabout), Bean Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the installation of gas main connections following replacement of the main.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2005 AMENDMENT NO 12 ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 35 and 124 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to alter the position of the existing time limited parking bays and waiting restrictions on B2011 Folkestone Road, Dover to allow for the relocation and upgrade of the existing pelican crossing to a puffin.

A copy of the Order, which will come into operation on Monday 17th August 2009, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 1XX a the Dover Town Council Offices, Maison Dieu House Biggin Street Dover CT16 1DW and the Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2005 AMENDMENT NO 13 ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1, 2, and 124 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to introduce additional "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions on Priory Station Approach Road, Dover.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

This is an additional proposal to the Dover Priory Station Environmental Improvement scheme the purpose of which is to link the existing double yellow lines with those being installed within the station area, thus allowing free traffic flow throughout the station area.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 1XX, the Dover Town Council Offices, Maison Dieu House, Biggin Street, Dover, CT16 1DW and the Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ

Anyone wishing to support, or object to this proposal should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B0836400" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 21st September 2009.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A2260 SPRINGHEAD ROAD, NORTHFLEET) (7.5 TONNES WEIGHT LIMIT) ORDER 2009 (VARIOUS ROADS, NORTHFLEET) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2009 (TOUCAN CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (CONVERSION OF FOOTWAY TO CYCLE TRACK) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY CYCLE TRACKS ACT 1984 (PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES) THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 and 124 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will introduce a 7.5 tonnes weight limit except for access on A2260 Springhead Road from its junction with A2260 Hall Road to a point 25.0 metres south east of the mid point of its junction of Haldane Gardens; and to introduce the prohibition of waiting of vehicles "At Any Time" on A2260 Springhead Road and Waterdales, Northfleet

under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 and all other enabling powers, intends to convert an existing Pelican Crossing to a Toucan Crossing on the A2260 Springhead Road at a point level with 2.0 metres north of the common boundary between numbers 143 and 145.

under Sections 65 and 66 (1) of the Highways Act 1980 and Section 1 of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 and all other enabling powers, intends to convert a footway to a shared pedestrian cycle route as described in Schedule 1 hereto:

under Section 90A to Section 90"I" of the Highways Act 1980 as amended by Section 32 and Schedule 10 of the Transport Act 1991 and by paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 and all other enabling powers, proposes to provide traffic calming measures at the locations as described in Schedules 2 and 3 hereto:

Copies of the plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal working hours at the Kent County Council Offices Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at the Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend Kent, DA12 1AU.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference no "B1033000" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 21st September 2009.

SCHEDULE 1

(Conversion of footway to Shared Pedestrian/Cycle Route)

A2260 Springhead Road, Northfleet: on the west side of the footway

from a point opposite 4.0 metres north of the common boundary between numbers 147 and 149 northwards, to a point opposite 2.0 metres south of the common boundary between numbers 137 and 139.

from a point level with the northern boundary of number 106 northwards, to a point 19.0 metres north of the mid point of its junction with Springhead Parkway.

on the east side of the footway for its entire length.

SCHEDULE 2

(Reduction in Carriageway Width)

A2260 Springhead Road

on the west side: from a point opposite 1.0 metre south west of the common boundary between numbers 157 and 159 north east and northwards, to a point opposite the common boundary between numbers 145 and 147.

from a point opposite 4.0 metres north west of the common boundary between 121 and 123 north westwards, for a distance of 8.0 metres.

from a point opposite 41.0 metres north west of the mid point of its junction with Waterdales north westwards, for a distance of 14.0 metres.

from a point level with 4.0 metres south east of the common boundary between numbers 200 and 202 north westwards, for a distance of 6.0 metres.

on the east side:

from a point level with 3.0 metres north of the common boundary between 153 and 155 north eastwards, for a distance of 20.0 metres.

SCHEDULE 3

Flat Top Raised Junction

(Raised flat top road hump 75mm in height over the full width of the carriageway)

1. Orchard Road, Northfleet from its junction with A2260 Springhead Road north eastwards, for a distance of 8.0 metres.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
WELLINGTON STREET, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Wellington Street, Gravesend between its junctions with Waterloo Street and Parrock Street.

The Order will become effective on 10th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Wellington Street, Waterloo Street, Parrock Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works repairing a water leak.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
A289 WAINSCOTT BYPASS, HIGHAM (TEMPORARY 50MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 50mph. This restriction will be as follows:-

A289 Wainscott Northern ByPass (Westbound) from the junction of the A226 Gravesend Road to the junction with the A2

A289 Wainscott Northern ByPass (Eastbound) from junction of A2 to Junction of the A226 Gravesend Road

A2 Watling Street (Eastbound) from a point 700 metres west of the M2 junction 1 under bridge to Three Crutches roundabout

A2 Watling Street (Westbound) from the Three Crutches roundabout to a point 700 metres west of the M2 Junction 1 Cole Wood under bridge.

The Order will become effective on 10th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the speed restriction is to facilitate re-lining on the M2 junction 1 to 4.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) (TEMPORARY ORDER 2009) THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic traveling at any speed greater than 30mph. This restriction will be on Ashford Road, Hollingbourne for a distance of 400 metres between Penfold Hill and Oakfield House in both directions.

The order will become effective on 10th August 2009 for a period of up to 6 weeks or until the works are complete.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential which are necessary to works to replace medium pressure mains. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Keith white on 07770 730572.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(B2026 MILL HILL AND HARTFIELD ROAD, EDENBRIDGE) (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 50mph speed limit on following length of B2026 Mill Hill and Hartfield Road from the existing termination point of 30 mph speed limit (15 metres south of the southern boundary of the property known as "Clare's" to the East Sussex border approximately 3.4 miles).

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transportation & Development Manager (Sevenoaks), Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7EZ by noon on Monday 7 September 2009.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PILGRIMS WAY WEST, HIGH STREET, OTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Pilgrims Way West, High Street, Otford between its junctions with Ivy House Lane in the west through to junction with A225 Station Road in the east.

The Order will become effective on 24th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last for 10 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: A224 London Road, A25 Bradbourne Vale Road and A225 Otford/Sevenoaks Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
WATERY LANE, KEMSING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Watery Lane, Kemsing between its junctions with Honeypot Lane and Broad Oak Lane.

The Order will become effective on 24th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to start on 25th August and last for 5 nights between 20:00 - 05:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Watery Lane, Heaverham Road, High Street Kemsing, West End, Childsbridge Lane, A25 High Street Seal, Maidstone Road and Broad Oak Lane. For clockwise diversion route, access Childsbridge Lane from A25 via School Lane

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
CLARKES GREEN ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH BIRCHIN CROSS ROAD, KEMSING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Clarkes Green Road at its junction with Birchin Cross Road, Kemsing.

The Order will become effective on 24th August 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last for 1 day.These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Magpie Bottom, Rowdon Lane, Birchin Cross Road.

Traffic coming from Cotman's Ash Lane and Tinker Pot Lane to go up Goodbury Road then follow diversion above.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate South East Water permanently reinstating a trench.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 and 124 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will introduce "At Any Time" waiting restrictions on a small section of High Street, Eynsford, to prevent parking across the access to the new housing development.

A copy of the Draft Order, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at the Sevenoaks District Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference no "B0997200" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 21st September 2009.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(COOLINGE LANE FOLKESTONE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new foul sewer and associated works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Coolinge Lane Folkestone from its junction with Sandgate Road to its junction with Bathurst Road on 10 August 2009 for an estimated period of 3 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic northbound will be via Sandgate Road, Grimston Avenue, Shorncliffe Road and Bathurst Road. Southbound via Bathurst Road, Shorncliffe Road, Grimston Avenue and Sandgate Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(THE ROW, ELHAM) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new telecommunications ducting works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on The Row, Elham from its junction with the High Street, Elham to the junction with Vicarage Lane on 11 August 2009 for an estimated period of 1 week or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via High Street, New Road and Vicarage Lane.

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(OTTERHAM QUAY LANE, UPCHURCH) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT aerial renewal work, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, between the junctions with Lower Rainham Road and Wallbridge Lane, on or after 24 August 2009 for an estimated period of three days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Wallbridge Lane, Oak Lane and Canterbury Lane.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SCHOOL LANE, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new gas supply works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on School Lane, Ramsgate from outside No 78 to outside No 90 on or after 10 August 2009 for an estimated period of 9 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Belmont Street, Hardres Street and Alfred Cottages.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CANTERBURY ROAD EAST, NETHERCOURT CIRCUS AND A SECTION OF NETHERCOURT HILL) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Canterbury Road East, Nethercourt Circus and a section of Nethercourt Hill from Royal Harbour Approach to Nethercourt Farm Road on or after
24 August 2009 for an estimated period of six nights (19.00 - 01.00) or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Canterbury Road East, Haine Road, Manston Road, Newington Road, High Street St Lawrence, Ellington Place, Grange Road and London Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 24 August 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WATERLOO ROAD, TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic travelling in a westbound direction on Waterloo Road, Tonbridge from the junction of Quarry Hill Road to Albert Road on or after Monday 10th August 2009 for 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via Quarry Hill Road, Waterloo Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for highway improvement works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Darren Hickman on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WINDMILL HILL PLATT) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Windmill Hill Platt on or after Wednesday
26th 2009 for 7 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for eastbound traffic via Comps Lane ,Seven mile lane, and Maidstone Road, London Road and for westbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to carry out a double washout and valve arrangement dismantle . Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nicola Stone on 01634 873290

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BRADBOURNE LANE AND THE STREAM, DITTON, AYLESFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effect of prohibiting driving on the following length of road:-

Bradbourne Lane, Aylesford

From a point 18 metres south east of the common boundary of Nos 63 and 65 Bradbourne Lane to the junction with The Stream.

The Stream, Aylesford

From the junction with Bradbourne Lane to a point 22 metres west of the junction with the northern arm of The Stream.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Monday to Friday at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close. Aylesford, Kent and at Invicta House, Maidstone during normal opening times

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close. Aylesford, Kent or by email to transport&development.maidstone_t&metre@kent.gov.uk by noon on Tuesday 1 September 2009.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by Section 14 of the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 and all other enabling powers, hereby intends to make the following Order prohibiting and restricting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto :-

1. Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road (Necessary highway maintenance), that traffic on various roads in Tunbridge Wells in Column 1 of the schedule 1 hereto should be prohibited or restricted. The alternative route for each route is described in Column 2.
2. The works as cited in 1. above will also require the suspension of the bus lane on Mount Pleasant Road opposite the War Memorial and the prohibition of traffic other than buses and cycles going through the
Five Ways bus gateway.
3. The order will come into operation on or after 24th August 2009 and will be valid for a maximum period of up to18 months or until the works are completed. (Whichever is sooner).

Details of the actual dates for the restrictions can be found in column 3 of Schedule 1.

4. This Order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (Various Roads in Tunbridge Wells)

(Prohibition of Traffic) Temporary Order 2009".

SCHEDULE 1

The affected routes (Column 1)	The alternative routes (Column 2)	Start and Finish Dates (Column 3)
A262 Cranbrook Road, Goudhurst From B2079 Balcombes Hill to A229 Angley Road.	Eastbound traffic via A262 Clayhill, A262 Station Road, A21 Lamberhurst By-pass, A21 London Road, A268 Hawkhurst Road, Hawkhurst High Street, A229 Cranbrook Road, A229 Hawkhurst Road, A229 Hartley Road, A229 Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road, A262 Cranbrook Road. (And vice versa for Westbound Traffic).	Start: 01/09/09 End: 03/09/09
A228 Maidstone Road (Colts Hill). From Woodsgate Corner to Badsell Road Roundabout.	Southbound traffic via B2017 Badsell Road, B2160 Gedges Hill, Madistone Road, A21 Hastings Road, A228 Pembury Road and A228 Maidstone Road. (and vice versa for Northbound traffic)	Start: 01/09/09 End: 11/09/09
C45 Speldhurst Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells. From A26 London Road to Lady's Gift Road.	Westbound traffic via A26 St John's Road, A264 Mount Ephraim, A264 Bishops Down, A264 Langton Road, The Green, Speldhurst Road, Langton Road, Speldhurst Hill, Etherington Hill and Speldhurst Road. (and vice versa for eastbound traffic)	Start: 09/09/09 End: 15/09/09
C256 Golford Road, Cranbrook. From Tilsden Lane to a point 200m east of Chapel Lane.	Westbound traffic via C256 Cranbrook Road, Benenden Road, A262 Tenterden Road, A262 Biddenden High Street, A262 Sissinghurst Road, A262 The Street, A229 Angley Road, Waterloo Road, The Hill and Bakers Cross. (and vice versa for eastbound traffic)	Start: 10/09/09 End: 23/09/09
U2993 Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells. From A267 Frant Road to A26 Eridge Road.	Westbound traffic via A267 Frant Road, A26 London Road, A26 Eridge Road and Broadwater Down. (and vice versa for eastbound traffic)	Start: 24/09/09 End: 06/10/09
A262 Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells From Halls Hole Road to A228 Maidstone Road (Woodsgate Corner)	Westbound traffic via Old Tonbridge Road, A21 roundabout, Longfield Road, Lamberts Road, Liptraps Lane, Birken Road, Sandhurst Road and Pembury Road. (And vice versa for eastbound traffic).	Start: 06/10/09 End: 15/10/09
A26 St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells. From A263 Grosvenor Road roundabout to Culverden Park.	Northbound traffic via A263 Grosvenor Road, Upper Grosvenor Road, Highfield Road, High Brooms Road, Yew Tree Road, A26 London Road and A26 St John's Road. (And vice versa for southbound traffic).	Start: 29/01/10 End: 30/01/10
A264 Langton Road, Tunbridge Wells. From Major York's Road to Rusthall Road.	Westbound traffic via A264 Bishops Down, A264 Mount Ephraim, A26 St John's Road, A26 London Road, B2176 Bidborough Ridge, Penshurst Road, Rogues Hill, B2188 Penshurst High Street, Fordcombe Road, New Road, Saints Hill, Spring Hill, Fordcombe Road, A264 Ashurst Road and A264 Langton Road. (And vice versa for eastbound traffic).	Start: 01/02/10 End: 03/12/10

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
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26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

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FirstDrive by STEVELOADER

Volvo **S80**

Volvo flagship stoops low to stand tall on handling

VOLVO is striving hard for acceptance as a brand for keen drivers as well as those who revere safety.

But the Ford-owned Swedish marque has never managed the on-road poise of BMW or Jaguar. Even its C30, S40 and V50 junior models owe their sure-footedness to the Ford Focus platform.

Meanwhile, the bigger S60 and S80 executive models have struggled to match the best 'drives' of their respective sectors even if safety, specifications and value have been impressive.

But practice pays off eventually and the heavily revised S80 promises well for future Volvos, including an all-new and crucial S60 model next year – it could yet be an Audi A4 basher or even a serious rival to the BMW 3-Series.

The S80 is now available with two new chassis; the one I tested is known as the 'Lowered Dynamic Chassis' (LDC) and fitted as standard on the SE and SE Lux; the 'Comfort Chassis' alternative is the only one available on Executive trim level and likely to resemble the set-up that earned the S80 a lumbering reputation in the first place.

Still, it will no doubt suit Volvo's North American fanbase, leaving us to concentrate on the self-levelling LDC, which is highly responsive to a challenging road yet impressively refined and comfortable. Steering is still a tad light, but feels more direct than before.

The chassis lowering is worth just 20mm at the front and 15mm at the back, but delivers immeasurable benefits through a reduced centre of gravity and potential for roll.

It also adds to a more purposeful look about the car due to a sleeker front grille with larger Volvo badge and more chrome.

Performance is also much improved by the main engine choice, the long-running but upgraded Volvo five-cylinder 2.4-litre diesel (from £23,745) available in 175bhp single turbocharger format or new 205bhp twin-turbo guises.

Very few people will opt for petrol models in turbocharged 2.5 and 4.5 V8 form – the latter available with all-wheel drive only in order to apply its prodigious power. There is also a 2.0 Flexifuel model.

A £21,745 109bhp 1.6-litre diesel version is due later in the year to allow the S80 into the brand's 'DRIVe club' for lowest emission versions of its various models.

This sounds like asking a husky to pull a brewer's dray, but Volvo insiders insist it will be livelier than it appears, especially as the S80 is a deceptively light car.

It will also be extremely tax-efficient for a car in this class, an area forcing many company car user choosers to think again about their next motor.

With the sloppy handling of the past all but banished, a smart and roomy interior and a financially attractive package, this could bring the S80 back into the executive reckoning.

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INSIDE

Peugeot 3008 to Qash in Page 46

Used car prices soaring Page 47

Citroën C5 puts boot in Pages 50-51

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Panda trails Beetle

IN THE context of production levels achieved by the VW Beetle, the 1.5 million in six years posted by the Fiat Panda looks modest.

The VW (1938-2003) notched more than 21 million over 45 years – unlikely to be beaten today even by a car as good as the Panda.

Instead, we can expect the Polish-built former European Car of the Year (2004) to be either heavily facelifted or replaced completely within a few years to maintain its competitive edge.

Not that it looks uncompetitive at the moment, as more people downsize to cars like the compact five-door Panda.

It has helped Fiat's resurgence after years of financial loss and also supplied the underpinnings of today's car of the moment, the retro-styled Fiat 500 – one of the UK and Europe's best sellers.

The Panda is currently available with 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4-litre petrol and 1.3-litre MultiJet diesel engines and priced from £7,095.

The line-up even includes 4x4 versions.

Peugeot cashing in on the Qashqai

THEY say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, so Nissan will be smug as Peugeot firms details and pricing for its new Peugeot 3008.

For the new French model, due in November, will have the same licence to roam across market sectors as the versatile Nissan Qashqai, launched in 2007.

Like the Qashqai, the 3008 has the same high-riding 4x4-cum-MPV one-size-fits-all styling and should also be a sharp drive.

Launch prices will start from £15,995 – slightly dearer than the Nissan – with a wide choice of powertrains and three trim levels.

Peugeot says would-be buyers might currently own a conventional saloon, MPV, small SUV or hatchback and the car's key targets will range from the Ford Focus family hatch to the Ford C-Max five-seat MPV.

Captured Yeti on show soon

SKODA launches its fifth model line on September 17 when the intriguing Yeti crossover arrives, priced from a tempting £13,750 with air con as standard.

With four trim levels and a 4x4 option though, you can pay as much as £22,120 for the rugged-yet-stylish newcomer.

Realistically though, most people will go for level two or 'Yeti S' spec from £14,250, which is the start point for alloys as standard and the car needs these to complement the neat body design. The two or four-wheel drive and DSG options also come into play.

Small comfort from pricier used cars

by STEVE LOADER

BUYING used is not the answer for recession-hit motorists it seems.

Prices have soared, leaving few bargains, particularly in the three-year/average mileage segment that canny secondhand car buyers trawl for their next motor.

Demand

The problem stems not so much from high demand, but from private and corporate users backing off buying new at the first signs of recession, which has choked used supplies further down the line.

Experts at Glass's Guide – the valuation 'bible' of the used car market – report used car stocks at an "all-time low" with no prospect of improvement.

Nevertheless, despite a 25 per cent rise this year in values for cars up to a year old, Glass's still urges would-be car buyers to buy now as prices could climb even higher and choice narrows further.

Glass's spokesman Adrian Rushmore said: "Since the third quarter of 2008 the very depressed new car market has seen fewer cars registered – particularly as short-term rental vehicles and dealer demonstrators – leading to an all-time low in the supply of younger cars for sale."

Rushmore added that it had also knocked on to older cars: "The situation for used cars of any age is not expected to change until the middle of next year at the earliest, so consumers should move quickly to have the best chance of finding the models that meet their needs."

FEW BARGAINS: MPVs like the Vauxhall Zafira are at the forefront of a rapid rise in secondhand car values brought on by the recession

Glass's rival, the CAP Guide, says the upward trend is underlined by high conversion rates at auction for ex-fleet cars; July was the third strongest month this year, with 87.5 per cent of cars selling first time

It says this might be good for the leasing and finance sectors, through reduced depreciation of assets, but forced motor dealers into higher investment in stock while squeezing profits – the recession has made consumers resistant to higher forecourt prices.

Smaller cars have seen the lowest price increases as they were already riding high on demand for economy cars and downsizing, but CAP did forecast rises of 2.3 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively for three-year-old/60,000-mile convertibles and coupe/cabriolets in August, while MPVs are also tipped for high rises.

Kia's testing a shock for experienced drivers

WE all reckon we are better drivers now than when we passed the test, but Kia has evidence to the contrary.

The Korean brand challenged experienced drivers to a retake, resulting in a shocking 50 per cent failure.

The average pass rate for novices is 42 per cent, but they do not have the re-take candidates' experience – many of these had held a full licence for more than 30 years and drove more than 150 miles a week.

Worryingly, half of failing candidates committed a 'major' during the re-test – a dangerous driving offence for which they're instantly disqualified. One candidate narrowly missed a pedestrian who stepped into the street between parked cars.

All candidates exhibited poor observation, being lax about mirrors and checking blind spots, and two-thirds forgot to look before moving off.

Kia compiled a Top 10 of faults:

1) **Hesitation at junctions: disrupting traffic flow and causing confusion**
2) **Speeding, especially in built up areas**
3) **Poor positioning: driving too close to the kerb or parked vehicles or straying across the white line**
4) **Following too close and compromising stopping distance**
5) **Poor signalling at junctions**
6) **Not moving away safely, using indicators or checking mirrors and blind spots**
7) **Failing to use both hands on the wheel when reversing**
8) **Emergency stop: omitting to check rear mirror before braking suddenly**
9) **Not applying the handbrake when stopping at a junction**
10) **Poor observation: lack of awareness of other road users, potential hazards and mirror-checking during manoeuvres**

Kia's exam also compiled a list of bad habits including: hand/arm crossing on the wheel; coasting; approaching junctions at speed and riding the clutch on an incline.

And there were similarities between novices and veterans.

All males were overconfident and frequent speeders, whereas the women were usually more intelligent drivers but collected fault marks for hesitation.

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Official government fuel consumption figures (mpg/litres per 100km) for the smart fortwo cdi: urban 83.1/3.4, extra urban 88.3/3.2, combined 85.6/3.3, CO2 emissions 88 g/km.

Model featured is the new smart fortwo cdi cabriolet passion at £10,880.42 on the road (on the road price includes VAT, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, number plates, first registration fee and fuel). Including Crystal white paint at £0.00, Tridion safety cell in silver at £0.00 and Design beige interior at £0.00.

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DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Citroën C5 Tourer

Citroën's 'Das Boot' C5 takes fight to Germans

RATHER like those famous Spitfire beer ads from Kent's own Shepherd Neame brewery, Citroën had fun at the expense of the Germans when it launched the latest C5.

In sharp contrast to its dreary predecessor, the crisply styled newcomer could easily have been the latest Audi.

So, as 'Sheps' promoted Spitfire as the 'Bottle of Britain' and 'Downed all over Kent, just like the Luftwaffe', Citroën boosted the C5 with lines like 'A Touch of Klaus' and 'Smit Hot'.

Not surprisingly, the copywriters also came up with 'Das Boot' for the estate or Tourer model tested here, courtesy of Wilmoths of Maidstone.

And the Tourer was worth its own promo, because this is a truly elegant family holdall to rival the looks of anything wearing a German prestige badge.

It is also practical and affordable for this level of the market with Tourers starting officially at a very non-Audi £18,295, with the chance to haggle an even better deal instead of encountering the famous Teutonic humour by-pass down at the Audi franchise.

The C5 still has some Citroën quirkiness; the steering wheel boss remains stationary while the rim rotates, which sounds pointless in print but actually works rather well now that carmakers group so many controls on the wheel itself.

There is also a Germanic quality about the way the car feels, which bodes well for Citroën's forthcoming DS premium range, and I like the company's corporate front end – a sort of chrome 'moustache' to Audi's heavy 'goatee'.

Our test car exhibited two more familiar Citroën traits, an exemplary diesel engine and the relatively high spec contained within a modest price; the 110bhp 1.6HDi 16v VTR+ is a mid-range model costing £20,895.

It comes with a 'lesser' and, dare we say it, Teutonic steel-sprung suspension rather than the hydro-pneumatic system that used to be 'de rigeur' on bigger Citroëns. This has made the

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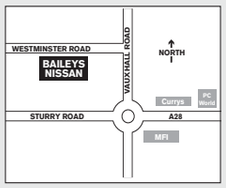

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car more affordable and invited less suspicion as the French marque tries to muscle in on the company car 'user chooser' market.

Citroën diehards can still have the famous 'feather-bed' suspension though, especially as previous testing shows that Citroën has tightened a tendency to roll into the bends and offered two settings for ride and handling.

Whichever system you go for, the steering still feels a little vague, but it is a small gripe when ranked against the ride and handling quality.

The 1.6 diesel is slightly small for the size of the C5, but has good low-down punch and only shows its lack of horsepower towards the end of the sprint to 60mph.

However, it cruises effortlessly on the motorway – a tribute to some extra NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) homework and streamlining on the C5 line-up.

Our car felt generally refined and economical – an official combined consumption figure of nearly 50mpg is quoted and it also attracts £120/year road tax – but do check out the 138bhp 2.0-litre diesel as well, with its extra urge and comparable fuel consumption.

Interior fixtures and fittings are high quality and seating is good. The load area cannot match some massive Citroën estates of the past, but the stylish lines disguise the fact that it is an accomplished load-lugger in its class.

The boot takes 505-litres with the rear seats in place, but these can be laid completely flat to offer 1,500 litres in 'van mode' – 'Das Boot' torpedoes the Audi A4 Avant and BMW 3-Series Touring here, while the Mercedes-Benz can only equal it.

The new Vauxhall Insignia (1,530 litres) just about beats it, but the cavernous Ford Mondeo (1,733 litres) overwhelms it significantly.

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DrivingStats

- Citroën C5 1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ Tourer £20,895
- Range: £18,295-28,295
- Garage stats: 4.83m by 1.85m five-seat estate
- Powertrain: 1,560cc/110bhp four-cylinder diesel driving front wheels through a five-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 117mph and 0-62mph in 14 seconds
- How green?: group E (£120/year) road tax – 140g/km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 49.6mpg
- Euro NCAP occupant safety rating (0-5 stars):*****
- Fuel tank: 71 litres/15.6 gallons
- Insurance group: 9
- Warranty: three years/60,000miles.
- Website: www.Citroën.co.uk
- Rivals: Alfa Romeo 159, Audi A4, BMW 3-Series, Ford Mondeo, Honda Accord, Mazda6, Mercedes-Benz C-Class, Peugeot 407, Renault Laguna, Seat Exeo, Subaru Legacy, Toyota Avensis, Vauxhall Insignia, Volvo V70 and VW Passat.

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ARNAGE, r auto, 2002, green metallic with green leather, 61000 miles, £33950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 330ci coupe manual, 2002, silver metallic with black dakota leather, 87100 miles, £5999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 3.0 330i M Sport Touring Estate 5d 2996cc auto (2006), (52) 2002, very rare top spec car. genuine mileage with fsh. pas, full leather, climate control, 18" mv alloys, cruise control, xenons, rear park assist, 4 x e/windows, e/mirrors, heated seats. please visit us at www.premiermotorcompany.co.uk for full details of this & many more quality cars. we guarantee all of our cars are of a retail standard & backed by a parts & labour warranty. finance arranged. credit & debit cards welcome as is part exchange. orient blue with full beige leather, 82, 000 miles, £7995, Shorne, 01474 822322 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318 ci es coupe, 2005, silver metallic with black cloth, 45800 miles, £6999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325 ci sport convertible auto, 2002, topaz blue metallic with grey leather sport seats, 93000 miles, £8950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325 i se manual touring, 2001, crystal green met with green cloth, 122000 miles, £2999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318 ci es, 2005, orient blue metallic with black leather, 22800 miles, £8999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 523ise, 2007, sapphire black metallic with grey cloth interior, 43800 miles, £13999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 523i sport manual, 2007, silver metallic with black alcantara sport seats, 39000 miles, £16999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X5, 3.0 sport automatic, 2002, topaz blue metallic with black dakota sport leathe, 104365 miles, £8999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X5, 3.0d Sport 5dr Auto, yc04mdf, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. insurance group:17, black, 60000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

FIAT

PUNTO, 2004, met blue, 50234 miles, £3995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2, 2002, burnt orange, 52651 miles, £1995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 8v Active Hatchback 3d 1242cc, (06) 2006, abs, cd, low insurance & tax bandings. . silver, 14, 000 miles, £3995, Shorne, 01474 822322 (TRADE)

FORD

KA, 3, 2000x, power steering immobilizer and alarmed one former keeper full service history all books taxed tested cheap insurance and tax ideal runabout easy parking in super condition throughout, blue, 79k miles, £1395, peter warrington, kent, 01634246086 (PRIVATE)

C-MAX, 1.6 Zetec 5dr BRAND NEW UNREGISTERED, TERMS APPLY, gl09feo, terms apply, metallic ocean. abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, power assisted steering, radio/cd, blue, 5 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 110 5dr [DPF], nm07szo, metallic tonic. all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, privacy glass, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, power assisted steering, radio, radio/cd, spoiler. insurance group:7, blue, 41411 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr, ej08ytt, grey, 7990 miles, £14490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8 Zetec 5dr - SPORTS PACK ZETEC, ng08hhz, metallic vision. sports pack zetec, privacy glass, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child seats, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, spoiler, rear headrests, tinted glass. blue, 24000 miles, £11695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Zetec 5dr - PRIVACY GLASS & 16 ALLOYS, oe08eof, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, radio/cd. silver, 25500 miles, £10695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Zetec 5dr - PRIVACY GLASS, nl08ysv, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, , immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking. insurance group:7, silver, 26668 miles, £10695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 5dr - SPORT PACK 2, pk08bso, sport seats, sports suspension, 17 alloys, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering airbags, steel wheels, tinted glass, traction control. insurance group:7, silver, 25206 miles, £10995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 110 5dr [DPF] - SPORTS PACK 2, ea58nxk, sports pack body coloured rear spoiler, sport seats, sports suspension, privacy glass, 17 alloys, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, body kit, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, heated screen, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, rear armrest, remote locking, spoiler, rear headrests, sports seats, tinted glass, traction control. insurance group:7, blue, 2655 miles, £12995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0 Titanium 5dr - AUTO, ov08zsk, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, traction control. insurance group:12, silver, 21107 miles, £11695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0TDCi Titanium 136ps 5dr *AUTOMATIC SPORT PACK*, ca08cwu, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sony all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, 18 alloys, sports pack, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, computer, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork, spoiler. blue, 0 miles, £15000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 5dr, ap08nnf, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, 17 alloy upgrade, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, adjustable seats, child locks, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, remote locking, side airbags. insurance group:7, grey, 28102 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr******SPORT PACK LEATHER******, ek58ypg, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, 18 alloys, ford direct vehicle, rain sensing wipers, sports pack, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, electrically adjustable seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, silver, 14525 miles, £14295, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8 Titanium 5dr, oe08kkb, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, balance of 3 year warranty, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:8, silver, 26251 miles, £11000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr*******SPORT PACK 3*******, ng08hhr, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, balance of 3 year warranty, 18 alloys, rain sensing wipers, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:8, grey, 25693 miles, £12495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0TDCi Titanium 5dr, ek58xll, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, remote locking, radio/cd. insurance group:10, red, 5806 miles, £14990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr - SPORT PACK 3, ng08hko, partial leather trim, heated front seats, sports suspension, body coloured rear spoiler, esp, folding mirrors, sony stereo, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, body kit, central locking, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, multi function steering wheel, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, spoiler, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, black, 26100 miles, £13995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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2005 55 **SAAB 9-5 2.2 TiD Vector**, 5 Doors, Automatic, Estate, Diesel , 50,000 miles, Metallic Smoke Beige. Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Side airbags, Full electric pack, Audio remote control, ABS, Roof rails, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Partial leather seat trim, Trip computer, Alarm, PAS **£7,995**

2002 52 **SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero,** 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 63,260 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Full electric pack, Heated seats, Park distance control, Remote locking, Side airbags, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Manual Transmission, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork **£5,495**

2001 Y **SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero,** 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 140,000 miles, Metallic Silver. ABS, Passenger airbag, Roof rails, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Full Electric pack, Front fog lights, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Alarm, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS **£2,500**

1995 N **SAAB 900 2.0i S,** 5 Doors, Automatic, Hatchback, Petrol, 136,188 miles, Metallic Red. ABS, Adjustable seats, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Child locks, Computer, Drivers airbag, Full Electric pack, Metallic paintwork, Passenger airbag, Power assisted steering, Radio **£995**

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ESCORT, lx, 1998, met green, 61000 miles, £800, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 2000, blue, 75000 miles, £1295, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style Climate Hatchback 3d 1242cc (2006), (05) 2005, 2 owner, genuine low mileage car, fsh, pas, air con, electric windows & mirrors, airbags, quick clear front windscreen, abs. please visit us at www.premiermotorcompany.co.uk for full details of this & many more quality cars. we guarantee all of our cars are of a retail standard & backed by a parts & labour warranty. moondust silver, 35, 000 miles, £4995, Shorne, 01474 822322 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Ghia Automatic, 2006, moondust silver, 10000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6TDCi Zetec Climate, 2006, amethyst, 39400 miles, £7495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, vision, 1500 miles, £11795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2003, metropolis blue, 51800 miles, £4795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.4TDCi Zetec, 2009, vision, 3000 miles, £12495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.3 Finesse, 2003, moondust silver, 61000 miles, £3995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, avalon, 1000 miles, £11495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Style Climate, 2007, ocean blue, 14957 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Ghia 1.6 TDCi, 2006, tango red, 17000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, moondust silver, 2000 miles, £10995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.4 TDCi Zetec, 2009, hot magenta, 2400 miles, £12795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Climate, 2006, jeans, 17586 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2007, moondust silver, 14000 miles, £8495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec Climate 1242cc 5 door, 2006, central locking driver's airbag power steering history check electric windows, metallic blue, 26350 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 3dr [Climate] - SPORT & TECH PACK, wm08gzb, tech pack, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:4, silver, 13223 miles, £7495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia 5dr, en03kcx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. blue, 31390 miles, £5995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr [Climate], yt55bfu, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, head blue, 27301 miles, £5795, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 3dr [Climate] - SPORT & TECH PACK, wj57gzp, privacy glass, folding mirrors, auto headlights, auto wipers, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, black, 37825 miles, £7495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5dr, aj58jvw, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, ford direct. insurance group:4, blue, 3214 miles, £12990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 5dr [Climate], bp08zpo, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:4, blue, 10732 miles, £8490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 5dr [Climate], bf58jdj, metallic moondust. abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year. insurance group:4, silver, 12637 miles, £7495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5dr*****DIESEL ?35 YEAR TAX*****, ea58jrv, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, ford direct vehicle, adjustable seats, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, radio, black, 6517 miles, £12695, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 3dr [82], mj58vuf, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd. insurance group:4, silver, 11569 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 5dr [Climate], de08rgz, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today. insurance group:4, black, 8546 miles, £9000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 5dr*******BLUETOOTH********, lm58mkz, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, blue, 14372 miles, £12295, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr ******NEW SHAPE*******, gn58sxu, metallic ocean. abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today. insurance group:3, blue, 6 miles, £9795, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec Blue 5dr***BLUETOOTH HANDSFREE***, cv58sye, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, metallic paintwork. blue, 11914 miles, £9000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Zetec S 3dr***STREET PACK**CITY PACK***, ey09xhe, city pack, side skirts, esp, quickclear heated screen, 17 alloy wheel upgrade, curtain airbags, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd. insurance group:6, red, 2911 miles, £14000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 3dr [Climate]***SPORT AND TECH PACK***, gf08ewn, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, balance of 3 year warranty, bluetooth, privacy glass, sports pack, central locking, colour coding body, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork, silver, 8138 miles, £8000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 5dr [Climate], lv08vep, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork, radio, black, 10348 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Titanium 5dr, eo58rzb, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, all vehicles come with balance of year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today. black, 3741 miles, £13495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Titanium 3dr******INDIVIDUAL******, gj09dou, metallic hot mangenta. abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, individual leather pack, quickclear heated screen, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, balance of 3 year warranty, bluetooth, full leather, power folding door mirrors, privacy glass, rain sensing wipers, adjustable seats, anti theft system, climate control, colour coding body, colour coding interior, head restraints, heated screen, leather seats, leather upholstery, immobiliser, metallic pai, red, 7000 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 TDCi Zetec S 3dr - FULL LEATHER, ej57oac, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:6, silver, 13394 miles, £8995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5dr [Climate], mv58ldz, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, black, 14065 miles, £8495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia 5dr - FULL LEATHER, wu58jxy, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, blue, 14077 miles, £8495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Titanium 3dr - KEYLESS ENTRY, FORD POWER START, ex58wwt, ford power start, tech pack, ford power start, privacy glass, bluetooth with usb, folding mirrors, keyless entry, auto wipers, auto headlights, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd. insurance group:4, silver, 6000 miles, £12495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2.0 ST 3dr - FULL LEATHER, gf07bno, park assist, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:13, red, 18800 miles, £9495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Blue 3dr - SPECIAL EDITION, lv08fnz, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, blue, 14838 miles, £7995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia 5dr - FULL LEATHER, na07vlc, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, silver, 22926 miles, £7995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr [Climate], gk57xpo, adjustable seats, air conditioning, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:4, blue, 19817 miles, £6990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 5dr [Climate], ly05zxx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:3, silver, 28410 miles, £5990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.3 CZ2 3dr, gk09nwm, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, white, 6000 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.3 CZ2 ClearTec 5dr, gk09nwl, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, blue, 3000 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

I-CAR, 5dr Auto, gn57uta, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, colour coding body, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, tinted glass, black, 14000 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab 2.5 Td Trojan, ej56ych, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, power assisted steering, remote locking. silver, 27000 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab Dl-D Diamond 4WD Auto 165Bhp, fe57ohf, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, heated seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, navigation system, power assisted steering, remote locking, traction control. insurance group:19, blue, 21500 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 2.0 Dl-D GS4 4dr, gk09nws, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:9, red, 500 miles, £16995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.6 Elegance 4dr Auto, ly05rwf, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:9, silver, 15250 miles, £4695, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, gk08ycg, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, , power , 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, saving_, silver, 9000 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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Typically offering in excess of 100 Sports and High Performance Cars, ranging in price from £500 to £35,000.

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Starts at 11.00am
Approximately 80~100 Four Wheel Drive vehicles

Commercial Vehicle Auction
Starts at 4.00pm
Approximately 50~60 commercial vehicles

General Car Auction for cars £1000 and over
Starts at 3.00pm
Approximately 100~150 cars on offer, all makes and models.

General Car Auction for cars under £1000
Starts at 12.00noon
Approximately 100~150 cars on offer, all makes & models.

NOTES FOR ALL SALES

Although entries are accepted up to 7.00pm on Sunday 30th August, we would strongly advise you, where possible, to book your vehicles in as early as possible, either by phone, email, or our new instant pre-booking service available on the internet to get maximum coverage.

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All start times are approximate and the auction will run continuously.

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LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr CVT, lx08zrf, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, saving, blue, 6800 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, II 2.0 DI-DC Warrior 5dr, lx57xsl, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, dvd, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering. insurance group:11, silver, 17300 miles, £15495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, II 2.0 DI-DC Warrior 5dr *Leather*, wv08tya, ellectric mirrors, leather gearknob, tinted windows, airbag double + side, cd player, fog lights, electricdoor mirrors, metallic paint, leather steering wheel, 18 light alloy wheels, adjustable seat height, air-conditioning, boardcomputer, silver, 3000 miles, £18495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, II 2.0 DI-DC Warrior 5dr, wn08czx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, child locks, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, folding rear seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:11, grey, 12000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.2 DI-DC Diamond 5dr Auto, gk07vyt, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, climate control, colour coding body, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, dvd, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, electric sunroof, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, limited slip differential, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, navigation system, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, traction control, green, 20395 miles, £20495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.2 DI-D Elegance 5dr Auto *Ralliart Upgrade*, lv56hpk, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, rear armrest, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:16, grey, 24750 miles, £14995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

NISSAN

350Z, 3.5 V6 GT Pack, mf57vzp, leather, charcoal, 18'' alloy wheels, 6 cd autochanger, air-conditioning, alarm, bose audio system, brembo disc brakes, climate control air conditioning, cruise control, electric heated front seats, electronic stability program (esp), front side and curtain airbags, power assisted steering (pas), remote control keyless entry, trip computer, xenon headlamps, universal silver, 9000 miles, £18495.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

ALMERA, 2.2d se+, 2001, silver, 0 miles, £2995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIGARO, 1.0 turbo auto, 1990, green and white with white leather, 132000 miles, £4799, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v S, oe05weu, cloth, carbon, 3 rear headrests, 3-point elr seatbelts, abs with brake assist, battery save, body coloured bumpers, central door locking, driver's airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, front seatbelt pretensioners, front side airbags, headlamp levelling, height adjustable driver's seat, keyless entry with superlocking, passenger airbag, rear sliding seat, single cd player, speed dependent pas, tilt adjustable steering wheel, techno grey, 31000 miles, £5495.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v URBIS, gf05bvj, cloth, carbon, 3 rear headrests, 60:40 split/folding rear seat, abs with electric brake distribution, audible driver's seatbelt reminder, battery save, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door mirrors, brake assist, drive computer, driver's airbag, electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, friendly lighting system, front side airbags, height adjustable driver's seat, remote audio controls, roof spoiler, single cd player, tilt adjustable steering wheel, aruba blue, 21000 miles, £5995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v S, dk06zpp, cloth, chicane, 2 cupholders, abs with electric brake distribution, battery save, brake assist, central locking with keyless entry, child safety locks on rear doors, driver's airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electric front windows, electric sunroof, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, front air spoiler, front seat airbags, front seatbelt pretensioners, headlamp levelling, height adjustable driver's seat, height adjustable seatbelts, intelligent key, internal central locking switch, isofix anchorage points, panoramicdriver's door mirror, passenger airbag, power assisted steering (pas), single cd player, pacific blue, 11500 miles, £5995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.4 16v SE, ex06jcj, cloth, carbon, 3 rear headrests, 6 cd autochanger, 60:40 split/folding rear seat, abs with ebd and brake assist, active front headrest system, air-conditioning, battery save, body coloured door mirrors, central door locking, drive computer, driver's airbag, electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, front seat airbags, keyless entry with superlocking, passenger airbag, power assisted steering (pas), rear sliding seat, techno grey, 24000 miles, £6195.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v SE, cf55hvr, cloth, chicane, 2 cupholders, 3 rear headrests, 6 cd autochanger, abs with brake assist, active front headrest system, air-conditioning, audible driver's seatbelt reminder, battery save, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door mirrors, central door locking, digital clock, drive computer, driver's airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd),support, passenger airbag, power assisted steering (pas), rear wash wipe, emotion red, 13000 miles, £6995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS ACENTA, gl57dso, cloth, carbon, rear park system, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), single cd player, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, flame red, 2830 miles, £6995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS TEKNA, oe08pfn, cloth, carbon, 16'' alloy wheels, 6 cd autochanger, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), automatic lighting system, automatic rain sensing wipers, battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, front fog lamps, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), rear park system, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, caf? latte, 13000 miles, £8795.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS TEKNA, nc08zcj, cloth, carbon, 16'' alloy wheels, 6 cd autochanger, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), automatic lighting system, automatic rain sensing wipers, battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, front fog lamps, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), rear park system, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, pacific blue, 10500 miles, £8995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.5 dCi 86PS SPECIAL EDITION 25, gf09xam, cloth, carbon, 3 rear headrests, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured roof spoiler, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, front fog lamps, isofix anchorage points, power assisted steering (pas), remote audio controls, remote central locking, single cd player, tilt adjustable steering wheel, faded denim, 5 miles, £10495.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS ACENTA, nl58lwm, cloth, carbon, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), single cd player, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, black, 20000 miles, £7995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS ACENTA, lg08knd, cloth, carbon, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), single cd player, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, black, 20000 miles, £7995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.6 16v Essenza, ad06mdj, cloth, carbon, 16'' alloy wheels, 6 cd autochanger, abs with ebd and brake assist, active front headrest system, adaptive audio system, adjustable steering wheel, aluminium kickplates, auto open roof, automatic climate control, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, c-view glass roof, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric front windows, electric heated door mirrors, electronic stability program (esp), front fog lamps, front side airbags, headlamp levelling, heated front seats, height adjustable driver's seat, intelligent key, isofix anchorage points, leather steering wheel, power assisted steering (pas), pacific blue, 25000 miles, £8995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.4 16v SVE Hatchback 5d 1386cc auto, 06/2006, pas alloy wheels a/con electric windows electricdoor mirrors keyless start remote c/locking, metallic blue, 24, 000 miles, £6895, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS ACENTA, gk09wyl, cloth, carbon, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), single cd player, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, caf? latte, 5 miles, £9495.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS SPECIAL EDITION 25, gk09wyw, cloth, beige, 3 rear headrests, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured roof spoiler, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, front fog lamps, isofix anchorage points, power assisted steering (pas), remote audio controls, remote central locking, single cd player, tilt adjustable steering wheel, night shade, 500 miles, £8995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS TEKNA, oe08oyk, cloth, carbon, 16'' alloy wheels, 6 cd autochanger, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), automatic lighting system, automatic rain sensing wipers, battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, , power assisted steering (pas), rear park system, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, pacific blue, 10000 miles, £8795.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

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59

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COMMENT

By **STEVE LOADER**

SOUNDS mad to say so in a recession, but buying a '59-plate car could be a shrewd and immensely satisfying move.

Assailed by falling demand and over-capacity, many carmakers and their dealers are desperate to move metal and have discounts and finance packages to tempt even the gloomiest recession watcher.

Those lucky enough to have savings may also be looking at the paltry interest rates earned and thinking this might be a good time to use that capital to cut the motoring budget instead, either by downsizing or buying a more economic and eco-friendly/low road tax model.

Anyone currently owning a 10-year-old car might also be eligible for a two-grand windfall under the Government-sponsored Scrappage Scheme in return for buying a new replacement.

But even a 'banger swap' like this is not essential when you check out extra incentives that many brands have tacked onto their Scrappage deals – it is tempting to suggest that they might take a bicycle in part exchange just to clinch a deal.

The appeal of buying new has also been enhanced by narrowing options on the used market, where prices are fast approaching the ridiculous

Year-old examples such as ex-fleeters and dealer demonstrators have shot up 25 per cent in value this year, while the three-year/average mileage examples that are dealers' mainstay stock are in short supply as forecourts and private buyers haggle up prices at auction.

The shortfall and consequent rise in values has been caused by consumers and fleets backing off buying new cars at the first signs of recession, which has choked used supplies a year or so further down the line.

Experts at Glass's Guide – the valuation 'bible' of the used car market – report used car stocks at an "all-time low" with no prospect of improvement.

When will there be a better time to buy new?

The recession is driving us to small-mindedness

BRITAIN'S recession is driving us to downsize and think 'eco' – economical and eco-friendly.

But superminis and city runabouts are not just in demand for size and economy; they are cars for all eventualities, tackling motorway miles with ease as well as coping with stop/go town traffic.

They can usually carry four adults comfortably – perhaps even five – and deliver greater economy through refined small diesels and hi-tech petrol units.

Hardly surprising then that they attract buyers from across the spectrum: young families, households needing a second car, first-time car buyers, or elderly couples counting the pennies.

And they are spoilt for choice, especially since some manufacturers have taken design cues from the MPV sector to raise interior space and flexibility.

Demand has been especially high lately, encouraged by the Government-sponsored Scrappage Scheme; discounts are smaller on smaller cars so a £2,000 grant looks attractive in return for scrapping a 10-year-old 'banger'.

Marques to watch:

DAIHATSU: This Japanese brand is hard to beat for compact value. A new Charade city car arrives shortly, while the bigger Sirion shares underpinnings with the Toyota Yaris, yet costs less. If you need a small 4x4 that really can go most places then check out the Terios too.

HYUNDAI: The Korean brand really has seized a grip on small car sales with two all-new thoroughly modern offerings: the spacious five-door i10 city car and the stylish i20 supermini, available as a three or five-door.

MAZDA: The sporty Zoom Zoom brand has stuck to its guns with the racy looking yet economical three and five-door Mazda2, which is also keenly priced and good to drive.

STYLISH: Hyundai i10 is one of the best all-round city cars

BARGAIN: Mitsubishi Colt is great value with its greener Cleartec option

COMPACT: Daihatsu Sirion – small price but big on space and value

MITSUBISHI: The sporty three and capacious five-door Colt supermini line-up was facelifted earlier this year and now offers ultra economical Cleartec versions, though the Japanese marque also introduced new racy Ralliart models too.

SKODA: VW's Czech marque offers the five-door Fabia. It remains excellent value, but is much smarter than before, well made and cheap to run, especially in diesel form. There is even an eco-friendly Greenline model. Skoda jokes now fall flat.

VAUXHALL: The Corsa supermini is one of the UK's favourite cars and comes in racy three or more sober five-door format, but its also has the five-door Agila mini-MPV sister as an option for families desperate to downsize.

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zoom-zoom

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range: Urban 18.0 (15.7) - 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 31.0 (9.1) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 24.6 (11.5) - 68.9 (4.3). CO2 emissions (g/km) 299 - 107.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on new vehicles registered between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2009. *0% finance available on Mazda Conditional Sale on all Mazda2, all-new Mazda3, Mazda6 and New Mazda MX-5 models. Offer not available in conjunction with Government Scrappage Scheme. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. ††Standard on Sport and Sport Nav models. Models shown: Mazda2 1.5 3dr Sport. OTR price £11,995. All-new Mazda3 2.0 5dr Sport. OTR price £18,025. Mazda5 2.0 Sport with Sports Luxury Pack. OTR price £20,445.
All models shown, excluding Mazda RX-8 R3 and all-new Mazda3 2.0 Sport, feature optional metallic/mica paint (£385). On the road prices include 15% VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print.

Toughest car sector still dominates sales

NEW WAVE: : Hyundai i30 – sophisticated five-door launched Korean brand's 'i' series

SPORTY: Mitsubishi Lancer – bigger in size and value than most in sector

SUPERMINI sales might be on the march in these environmentally aware times, but family hatchbacks remain the optimum size for most buyers and dominate the Top 10 sellers list.

No wonder then that it is the hardest fought sector for manufacturers, with even the best battling hard to retain market share.

Buyers want space, comfort and a good ride, but they also demand a good driving experience and, increasingly, better fuel consumption and emissions levels – few contenders tick all the boxes.

Here are some recommended rivals though:

HYUNDAI I30: This five-door model launched an astonishing new wave of 'i' series models from the Korean marque that has seen it leapt ahead of where it was just a few years ago. High quality, good driving characteristics, Hyundai value plus the brand's five-year warranty make this a serious player.

MAZDA3: An all-new version arrived this year in five-door hatch and four-door saloon formats. Mazda's Zoom Zoom contender is a stylish and premium option at a sensible price with a good choice of engines, generous equipment and cracking MPS performance flagship.

MITSUBISHI LANCER: Launched originally in saloon format, but now available as a five-door Sportback, the Lancer is a larger contender here offering excellent value as well as sharp styling.

SKODA OCTAVIA: Another oversize contender, the Czech car is available in five-door hatch or useful estate forms and there is even a 4x4 option on the latter – a genuine cut-price Audi Avant Quattro.

VAUXHALL ASTRA: The Astra's sharp styling in Sports Hatch (three-door), five-door or estate form cuts a dash, but a line-up of great engines is another selling point and there is a scorching VXR halo model.

SENSIBLY PRICED: Mazda3 – lighter and more economical all-new model arrived this year

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*For full terms and conditions on the Mitsubishi Scrappage Scheme ask your dealer or visit www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk/scrappage. 0% APR Typical finance is subject to status through Finance Mitsubishi, 116 Cockfosters Rd, Barnet, EN4 0DY. Finance Mitsubishi is part of Lloyds TSB Asset Finance Division. **0% APR typical offer requires a 50% deposit, other offers are available ask for details. Indemnities may be required. Finance offer is only applicable in the UK (excludes Channel Islands & I.O.M) and may be amended or withdrawn at any time. Offer available between 1st April and 30th June 2009. Range fuel consumption in mpg (ltrs/100km): Urban 44.8 - 21.6 (6.3 -13.1), Extra Urban 65.7 - 31.0 (4.3 - 9.1), Combined 56.5 - 26.7 (5.0 - 10.6). CO2 emissions 119 - 280 g/km.

Family car sector tough but buyers have extra choice

ELEGENT: Packing plenty of zoom Zoom – the latest Mazda6

NEWCOMER: Current sector leader – the classy Vauxhall Insignia

FAMILY models like the Ford Mondeo used to rule the UK car market.

They were designed for company car 'user choosers' to pound motorways during the week and cope with family use and abuse at weekends or on holiday.

But MPVs, 4x4 SUVs and upmarket compact executive cars eroded market share and there is now far more choice of format in this middle ground.

Nevertheless, with economy and lower emissions increasingly important – diesels have become the preferred power option - and aerodynamics tipped to play a bigger part in buyers' decision-making, there could be a revival of the lower and sleeker family motor.

Here is a selection of current contenders:

HYUNDAI SONATA: Tipped for a major facelift or replacement soon due to its so-so ride and handling, but there could be bargains and all Sonatas come loaded with specification plus the Hyundai five-year warranty.

MAZDA6: The Zoom Zoom brand's second generation '6' is even more elegant than the original and far more refined. Available in saloon, hatch or estate, it is lighter and more frugal and quality is excellent.

SKODA SUPERB: Now known as "the saloon that thinks it's a hatchback" thanks to its versatile two-part rear end, the latest Superb is big enough to pass as a cut-price director's car. Skoda's perennially high customer satisfaction ratings add to a temptation to switch from a prestige badge to one that is no longer a laughing matter.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA: The smartly styled newcomer has led sales in its sector since launching in early 2009. Replacing the barely-lamented Vectra, the current saloon, hatchback and Tourer (estate) will soon be joined by muscular VXR halo models.

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Model shown is new Superb Elegance 1.8 TSI 160bhp at £21,750 RRP including optional metallic paint at £400 RRP. **Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the new Superb Range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban 38.2 (7.4) – 67.3 (4.2), Combined 28.0 (10.1) – 55.4 (5.1). CO_2 emissions for the new Superb Range 136 - 235g/km.**
Retail sales only. Offer available on all new Superbs purchased and registered from 1st July 2009 to 30th September 2009 at participating retailers only. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Škoda Finance, Freepost Škoda Finance. *Free servicing up to 30,000 miles or 3 years (whichever comes sooner). Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 3 years roadside recovery provided by the RAC and includes Europe. Please see your local retailer for full terms and conditions.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 38.2 (7.4) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 28.0 (10.1) – 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 Emissions (g/km) Škoda Range: 109 - 235

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Models featured: (1) Hyundai i20 Style 1.4 (2010 MY) at £11,555 OTR in Sleek Silver metallic paint at £355 included. (2) Hyundai i30 Comfort 1.4 at £9,895 OTR in Shine Red solid paint at no extra cost. Price includes a customer saving of £1,705. (3) Hyundai Coupe SIII 2.0 at £12,995 OTR in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost. Price includes a customer saving of £5,035. Prices shown are On The Road (OTR) and where applicable reflect customer savings discounts against manufacturer's recommended OTR price at the time of publication, subject to purchase and registration taking place between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2009. For details please refer to www.hyundai.co.uk/i20/prices/, www.hyundai.co.uk/i30/prices/, www.hyundai.co.uk/coupeSiii/prices/, or Hyundai's July 2009 price guide, reference 07/09 HB2729. On the road price (OTR) includes VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. Part-exchange allowance applies in addition to dealership valuation on agreed part-exchange deals at participating authorised dealers only, is subject to purchase and registration taking place between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2009 and does not apply to vehicles traded in under the Government's Scrappage Scheme or Hyundai's "Top-Up Plus" offers or to vehicles purchased for business purposes. Part-exchange valuations are at dealer's discretion and subject to dealer's applicable terms and conditions. See your dealer for full details. Any part-exchange allowance must be claimed prior to completion of purchase. Retrospective claims will not be accepted. No more than one allowance per vehicle bought. Offers do not apply to vehicles purchased under the Hyundai Affinity scheme, are subject to availability and may be withdrawn or varied at any time. All figures correct at time of going to press. Warranty only available on new cars purchased in the UK and sourced from Hyundai Motor UK Limited through its authorised dealers. See your local dealer for full warranty terms and conditions.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 52.3 (5.4) – 18.7 (15.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8) – 38.2 (7.4), Combined 64.2 (4.4) – 27.7 (10.2), CO_2 Emissions 116 – 245 g/km.

mazda

zoom-zoom

EXCITEMENT COMES IN MANY FORMS. THE MAZDA RANGE.

TYPICAL 0% APR

MAZDA2	1.5 3dr Sport	Finance Mazda Conditional Sale	On The Road Price £12,380 Inc. pearlescent paint	36 Monthly Payments of £171	Customer Deposit £6,224	Amount of Credit £6,156	Total Amount Payable £12,380	0% APR*
ALL-NEW MAZDA3	1.6 5dr TS²	Finance Mazda Conditional Sale	On The Road Price £15,885 Inc. mica paint	36 Monthly Payments of £220	Customer Deposit £7,965	Amount of Credit £7,920	Total Amount Payable £15,885	0% APR*
MAZDA6	2.2D 5dr Sport	Finance Mazda Conditional Sale	On The Road Price £21,795 Inc. mica paint	36 Monthly Payments of £302	Customer Deposit £10,816	Amount of Credit £10,764	Total Amount Payable £21,795	0% APR*

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range: Urban 18.0 (15.7) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 31.0 (9.1) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined 24.6 (11.5) – 68.9 (4.3). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 299 – 107.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating Mazda dealers for new vehicles contracted and registered between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2009. *0% finance available on Mazda Conditional Sale on all Mazda2, all-new Mazda3 and Mazda6 models. Offer not available in conjunction with Government Scrappage Scheme. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RHI 1SR. Model shown: Mazda2 1.5 3dr Sport. OTR price £11,995. All-new Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS². OTR price £15,500. Mazda6 2.2D 5dr Sport. OTR price £21,410. Models shown feature optional mica/pearlescent paint (£385). On the road price includes 15% VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print.

MPVs cram in sales as well as passengers

MARKET LEADER: Vauxhall Zafira is the best-selling midi-MPV thanks to the 'seven-seats as standard' proposition that turned the sector upside down

PEOPLE carriers or MPVs have helped stifle sales of traditional family cars.

Buyers have been wooed by a higher driving position and more space and versatility.

The feeling that they are also getting more car for their money also surely helps.

Despite the basic one-box or 'monocab' design, the examples highlighted here also show the range of profiles adopted by MPV stylists.

DAIHATSU MATERIA: Need an MPV that looks different? Try the retro Materia. It might look like an old-fashioned 'low-rider' hot road, but this is a cost-effective five-seater with loads of room and decent handling within compact dimensions.

HYUNDAI MATRIX: There can be few cheaper MPVs than the Korean marque's five-seat Matrix, even though it is now ageing. Keen prices also go with Hyundai's standard five-year warranty.

MAZDA5: in keeping with its sporty Zoom-Zoom image, Mazda's slick and racy MPV drives as well as it looks and has sliding doors for access to the rearmost seats. It is well-priced for one of the best-looking people carriers and can seat seven, at a pinch.

FUNCTIONAL: Skoda Roomster does what it says on the tin and feels like a car to drive, but has a capacious room attached behind

HOT-ROD LOOKS: Daihatsu Materia – compact on the road, but huge inside, the Materia's is one of the most distinctive MPVs on the road

MITSUBISHI GRANDIS: Lower and sleeker than most rivals, the Grandis wears a touch of class to echo its name. Seven seats come as standard, but there is just the one (diesel) model to choose from.

SKODA ROOMSTER: the Czech brand seemed to review the small MPV market and came up with a novel approach by marrying a car-like front with a boxy and spacious MPV rear – the 'room' that inspired the name Roomster. It drives like a car with all the versatility of a people carrier.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA: The distinctive seven-seat Zafira is the UK's best-selling midi-MPV and available with a wide range of powertrains. The easy operation and folding of the rearmost seats have now been imitated by numerous carmakers, but to this day it remains to be improved upon.

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Copen 1.3 as shown is £11,745 OTR. Metallic paint and leather seats are an extra cost. Prices are correct at time of going to press and include £55 first registration fee and 12 months road fund licence. Award winning reliability; as published in 'Which? Magazines Car Awards 2008'.
Consumption Figures (mpg/litres per 100 km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) Urban Cycle 36.7 (7.7) Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0) Combined 47.1 (6.0) CO_2 emissions 140

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Range: Urban 27.7 (10.2) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra-urban 47.1 (6.0) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 37.7 (7.5) – 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 emissions for the Fabia Range 109 – 180g/km. Retail Sales only. *Payable with first payment. **Payable with optional final payment. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s for registrations before 30 June 2009. Škoda Finance, Freepost Škoda Finance. The scrappage saving is dependent on your vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage incentive criteria and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. The Government scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31 August 1999 when traded-in against a new car, subject to terms and conditions. Offer is subject to vehicle availability from participating retailers and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Please ask your local retailer for full terms and conditions.

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A modern tale a two towns

By **ALEX HOAD**
alex.hoad@kosmedia.co.uk

THEY might only be separated by 30 miles, but in terms of the impact of the recession on their town centres, Margate and Ashford are poles apart.

A new survey has revealed that while Margate has the UK's highest percentage of empty shops, Ashford is at the other end of the scale. A report from the Local Data Company (LDC) showed that one in four shops in Margate is empty this summer, more than double the national average.

Meanwhile, Ashford has fewer than four per cent of town centre shops standing vacant – three times better than the UK norm.

Dover, Gravesend and Folkestone are all well above the national average, a figure which has more than doubled already this year. LDC is predicting more shops will be closing across the UK by the end of the year and many towns are looking for inspiration to determine how they tackle the issue.

STREETWISE: Ashford is setting the pace when it comes to retaining retailers

Ashford council's head of economic development, Andrew Osborne, said the town's exceptional ranking was the result of hard work and its label as a 'growth town'.

He said: "We're delighted our work and that of our partners at Ashford's Future and the Town Centre Partnership is paying off when it comes to supporting business. To fall well below the national average for retail vacancies, as well as having improving employment rates, is extremely encouraging."

But Mr Osborne said Ashford and Margate could not be compared like-for-like.

He said: "Ashford is very different to Margate, so it's difficult to compare the two. We are a growth town set to double in size and are aiming for a different programme of development. We are interested in securing large scale retail developments such as the expansion of County Square, as well as supporting diversity and independent retailers."

He suggested Margate needed to use its unique charms to ensure a bright future.

He said: "Margate is a seaside town and will need to look to play to its strengths in developing its appeal. The Turner Contemporary art gallery provides a very positive investment for the future."

In a special Kent on Sunday investigation on p66-67, we talk to the people who matter in Margate to discover what has caused the problems, what is being done about them and what the future holds. In short: how do you solve a problem like Margate?

High rate of churn reveals Bromley's volatile heart

BROMLEY has been revealed as one of the places with the highest turnover of town centre stores in the country.

In a strong town centre there is a lot of competition for prime retail space and retailers tend to stay, while in weaker centres premises change hands more quickly.

Figures compiled by the Local Data Company report showed the town's 'churn' – a measure of a centre's volatility, essentially the average of new openings and store closures in a town centre – was far and away the highest in the south.

The LDC report said: "In a recession, churn tends to be driven more by a failure to trade and this time around has not been an exception."

Bromley's churn rating was 309 per cent – only behind Wakefield, Wolverhampton, Bradford and Bolton nationally.

The rate was three times higher than the next highest southern town, Chelmsford in Essex.

PRETTY VACANT: Margate has the highest percentage of empty shops, says LDC

Town centre vacancy (%)

MARGATE	25
DOVER	16.3
GRAVESEND	14.3
FOLKESTONE	14.1
RAMSGATE	12.2
DARTFORD	11.6
MAIDSTONE	11.4
TONBRIDGE	10.9
CANTERBURY	9.2
CHATHAM	8.8
ASHFORD	3.7

National average: 12 per cent

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Light at end of the tunnel

By **ALEX HOAD**
alex.hoad@kosmedia.co.uk

PLATFORM SOULS: Hornby chairman Neil Johnson told shareholders the group had steamed confidently through the recession

INTERNATIONAL models and collectibles group Hornby believes it has weathered the worst of the recession and is looking forward to a bright future.

Chairman Neil Johnson told shareholders the firm was confident its niché sector was not being hit as hard as other areas.

Mr Johnson said that in the last quarter: "Our businesses in the UK, mainland Europe and the USA have continued to experience good demand for our products.

"Sales continue to be strong, demonstrating significant year on year growth. In particular, we have continued to build sales of Airfix and Corgi as our new product development efforts in these categories begin to bear fruit.

"As is the case every year, much will depend upon consumer confidence and the robustness of demand in the pre-Christmas period in determining the overall result for the year.

"However, current indications are positive and historically hobby products have performed relatively well in times of uncertainty."

Mr Johnson said the recession in Europe had boosted the firm's standing in the sector: "Against a background of many of our competitors experiencing financial difficulties, we are now recognised as a serious participant in all the key markets. In particular, we are seeing encouraging sales growth in Germany, the largest model railway market in Europe."

Mr Johnson revealed recent supply chain problems in China had been resolved: "We are now experiencing a significant improvement in deliveries and expect this to continue in the important pre-Christmas period.

"At the same time, we have developed additional sources of supply to ensure our future product requirements are met in full."

He added: "Our strategy to build a broad-based hobby business, spanning a number of product categories and geographical markets, has provided a better balance to our business in challenging economic times."

Mr Johnson said that balance meant the future would be a bright one, particularly after the announcement of a contract to provide London 2012 merchandise.

He said: "The group has experienced challenging circumstances over the past year, with supply chain issues and adverse currency effects putting a short-term brake on financial performance. We believe the worst effects are now behind us, although we will continue to experience the negative impact of exchange rates for the rest of the financial year.

"Importantly, though, the group has demonstrated its resilience against a difficult economic background and we now look forward to restoring the momentum in sales and profits that we have achieved in the past."

Half a day gives profits boost

SELF-employed business owners are being encouraged to attend free workshops which explore ways to increase sales and profits.

Run by Business Link, the free half-day workshops are being held at 8.30am and 2pm at the Ashford International Hotel, on Friday, August 14; and the Village Hotel, Maidstone, on Monday, August 24.

Developed by Bob Gorton, who runs Hard Hat, one of the country's leading change management organisations, delegates will be encouraged to decide what their key financial targets are and to look for opportunities. They will leave the workshop with a personal action plan including three key actions to improve business within 90 days.

Richard Green, Business Link adviser manager, said: "This is not your usual workshop where you make a few notes and take home a few pointers. This is a one-off business review, a health check to take a refreshed look at your business and make changes.

"Just half a day will be time well spent, giving the self-employed the insight they need to take their business forward. In difficult times a workshop such as this, which can help develop your business and realise your aspirations, is not to be missed."

Sally Hill, director of Charles Construction in Ashford, who attended a Boost Your Sales workshop in July, said: "It gave me proactive steps to take back to the office."

Gabrielius Makevicius, owner of Mr Bit carpet and upholstery cleaners of Maidstone, who attended a recent workshop, said: "It was brilliant for small businesses and useful for networking, too."

Mr Gorton said: "The workshop will help small business owners take a refreshed look at their forward planning. And Business Link will keep in touch, helping them access an array of other support initiatives."

Business Link has designed the workshops to help increase sales and profits and create a financial plan.

The workshops are free but exclusively for Kent based self-employed and owner managers with no more than two full-time employees.

To apply for a place or for more information about the support available, call Business Link on 0845 600 9006.

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Synchronica seals Africa mobile deal

A TELECOMS firm has signed a lucrative deal to expand its services into Africa.

Tunbridge Wells-based Synchronica has received a purchase order for £100,000 from a North African mobile operator for 20,000 user licences of its award-winning Mobile Gateway.

The operator plans to use the technology – which allows even the most basic handsets to access email via text messaging – to offer a push mail and mobile synchronisation service to subscribers over the next month.

Synchronica's technology does not require additional software to be downloaded to handsets and enables push email for every handset, from smartphones to low-cost entry-level devices.

A recent study from Ernst & Young found demand for mobiles in Africa is growing rapidly – almost twice as fast as in Brazil and Asia.

Organic growth

Carsten Brinkschulte, chief executive officer of Synchronica, said: "This deal reaffirms the validity of our strategy to use major global resellers to introduce our technology into a variety of countries and operators, thus driving our organic growth.

"The African telecoms market is expanding at pace and with growth expected to be faster than any other region over the next three to five years, it is key for Synchronica's strategy.

"Operators are looking to use Mobile Gateway to increase average revenue per user and reduce churn by introducing addictive data services to the mass-market.

"Unlike many other vendors, we can offer operators products which can address the entire range of handsets, resulting in faster take-up rates and helping to reduce churn, attract new customers and drive additional revenues."

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"MKA Projects has exhibited at several shows since our first at Construction Expo 08 and none have been as well planned nor the organisers as helpful. Also, as Chartered Quantity Surveyors and Project Managers the visitors to Construction Expo 08 and our fellow exhibitors were the most suitable for our business compared to any other show we've visited or exhibited at. We booked our 09 stand as soon as the 08 show finished as we were so impressed."
ARAN BROOKS, DIRECTOR, MKA PROJECTS
For more information and to book your space at this years event call Liz Hare on 01303 817172 or email liz.hare@constructionexpo.co.uk

Movers & Shakers

A LAW student who is returning to legal studies 12 years after giving them up has been awarded the Stanton Prize for Best Performance by a first year student at the University of Kent at Medway.

Carla Loveday, pictured right, works for Kings Hill-based Vertex Law and provides transactional support to the firm's corporate team.

She has been reading for her law degree part-time at the university for the past two years and has just completed Stage I with a distinction after juggling her studying with work and raising two young children.

Carla, 31, said: "I started reading law when I was 18 but decided to leave after my first year. It's taken me 12 years to get back to university. To take and pass my first exams is a milestone for me, so to receive the award as well really is overwhelming."

She is sponsored by her employers and has been given a day off each week to attend university for seminars or visit the library.

Stuart Butler-Gallie, a founding member of Vertex Law, said: "This award reflects the commitment Carla has to all the things she does, including providing myself and the corporate team at Vertex with invaluable help and support. The whole team is very proud of her achievement."

Carla starts Stage II of her degree in September.

THISTLE Hotels has announced the appointment of Sarah Ingram as general manager of its Brands Hatch hotel.

The 27-year-old, from Glasgow, has 10 years of hospitality experience and will join in time to oversee a rebrand of the group.

She said: "I aim to draw from my experience to really build the meetings and events offering at the hotel."

Sarah studied at the University of Strathclyde, achieving a BA in hotel and hospitality management, before working at a national hotel chain.

CEO Heiko Figge said: "Sarah's hospitality experience means she is well equipped to ensure the Brands Hatch hotel offers guests the best possible value without having to compromise on style and service."

MORE than a dozen lawyers from Thomson Snell & Passmore have been named Leader in their Field in the 2010 edition of Chambers UK.

Jeremy Passmore and Simon Brown, Partners in Private Clients; Patricia Fearnley and Fiona Mills heading Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury; James Partridge and Nick Gabay, Partners in Corporate and Commercial; Sarah Judd and Barbara Wright in Family; Nick Hobden, Head of Employment; Gilbert Green, Head of Commercial Property; Nicholas Horton, Head of Dispute Resolution; Peter Radula-Scott in Commercial Dispute Resolution; and Andrew Watson in Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury, were all announced as Leaders in their Field in the new edition of the Legal Dictionary.

James Partridge, senior partner at the Tunbridge Wells-based firm, said: "We are delighted with the announcement of such a high proportion of our lawyers as Leaders in their Field.

"We are a knowledge-based business so it's essential we invest in our people so they can pass this knowledge on to colleagues as they progress in their careers.

"I congratulate the lawyers on this distinguished achievement, and their ongoing commitment and hard work, which has contributed massively to the success of their departments and the wider firm."

FACTORING and invoice discounting specialist Ultimate Finance has strengthened its sales force in the South East with a new appointment to its Tunbridge Wells office.

David Mullins, pictured below, joins the company as regional director, bringing over 16 years' experience in the invoice finance industry.

He previously spent seven years at Hitachi Capital Invoice Finance after leaving First National Invoice Finance.

Mr Mullins will join South East MD David Wright in attracting clients and helping to increase its reputation across the region, also covering Herts, Beds and Essex.

Mr Mullins said: "In the current climate and with constraints from the banks, a lot of businesses are looking for greater flexibility for lending and this is where we can really make a difference.

"Ultimate is still looking to continue its growth and it's a great opportunity to be part of the rapidly expanding South East team." Mr Wright said: "We are delighted David has joined the team. His background and wealth of experience and contacts will be a great asset."

AMANDA Okill, an employment lawyer who specialises in dispute resolution, has been promoted to associate at regional law firm Furley Page.

Amanda, pictured right, who lives in Whitstable and is based at the Canterbury office, has established a reputation for helping to find solutions to litigation issues, working with the likes of charities, educational establishments and corporate bodies to help them avoid employment tribunals. She is also a key player in the firm's employment seminars which are aimed at advising local business how to get to grips with law updates, grievances in the workplace and managing sickness absence.

Andrew Masters, partner and head of employment at Furley Page, said: "Amanda's solution-based approach to litigation issues has earned her the respect of existing and new clients and her skills and experience are a huge asset to the team.

"Her appointment acknowledges those skills as well as acting as a marker for the quality of the services the team provides for its clients."

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.69% **L:** 75% **U:** 30/09/2012
OD: £1,339

MORTGAGAE BOX ITL
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.89% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2011
OD: £1,184

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/10/2011
OD: £1,329

ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.18% **L:** 70% **U:** 02/11/2011
OD: £1,030

OTHER

NATIONWIDE
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.38% **L:** 75% **U:** 3 YEARS
OD: £1,015

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 3 YEARS
OD: £1,030

MARSDEN
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.09% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/07/2011
OD: £1,298

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.09% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £1,305

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INCOME PROTECTION COMPARISON MONTHLY PREMIUMFOR A LEVEL MONTHLY BENEFIT OF £1,500 UNTIL AGE 60

• ALL PREMIUMS ARE GUARANTEED THROUGHOUT TERM OF CONTRACT & BASED ON NONSMOKER RATES AND WITH BENEFITS BEING DEFERRED FOR 13 WEEKS WITH ACCEPTANCE AT ORDINARY RATES FOLLOWING UNDERWRITING

MALE AGED 30		FEMALE AGED 30	
LV=	£22.02	LV=	£36.38
BRIGHT GREY	£22.11	BRIGHT GREY	£37.27
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£23.41	FRIENDS PRVDNT	£38.72
PRUPROTECT	£23.50	AEGON SCOT EQUIT	£39.72
MALE AGED 40		**FEMALE AGED 40**	
LV=	£32.65	BRIGHT GREY	£51.45
BRIGHT GREY	£32.85	LV=	£54.83
AVIVA	£33.25	SCOT PRVDNT	£56.19
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£33.79	FRIENDS PRVDNT	£56.89

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Science Park offers one-hour clinic sessions

FREE one-hour business clinics are on offer at Kent Science Park.

The sessions will run between 9.30am-4.30pm on Wednesday, at Newton House conference centre at the park, near Sittingbourne.

They will be led by advisers from Business Link Kent who will provide an objective view of organisations to help them clarify their visions and goals.

It is open to both established and start-up firms looking to grow or needing assistance with a specific issue.

Following the review the adviser will produce an individual action plan.

For more information call 01795 411500, email info@ksp-uk.com or visit www.kentsciencepark.co.uk

Excellence will be rewarded

LAW firms have less than a fortnight to submit their entries for the Law Society's Excellence Awards 2009.

The awards recognise and promote excellence and celebrate outstanding achievement in areas central to the profession.

They will reward lawyers who continue to innovate and deliver quality work despite the challenging economic climate.

The winner will be unveiled at a ceremony in London on October 22, with finalists offered the chance to celebrate with their teams, VIP guests and invited clients. Visit www.lawsociety.org.uk/excellenceawards before Friday, August 21, to enter. For queries, email awards@lawsociety.org.uk.

So, how do you solve a

Thousands of independent shops and branches of nationwide chains have already closed this year. The whitewashed windows and To Let signs are growing by the week – and nowhere has it been more obvious than in Margate. The seaside town came out worst in a new survey of empty shops in British town centres. The Local Data Company report showed one in four shops in the town centre lies empty, more than double the national average. LDC says empty shops have "a corrosive effect upon the confidence of an area, and their numbers are growing".

So how did a once thriving coastal resort get into this position? And what should be done to make the town attractive to new retailers? In this special Kent on Sunday investigation, KOS Media Business Editor ALEX HOAD asks what caused the problems, what is being done, and what the future holds for Margate?

SAILING BY: Can Margate define a new role in the modern retail era?

DAVID Foley, chief executive of Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce, said quick-fixes won't work to solve Margate's problems as "companies need confidence in the future".

He said: "Darwin said it is the one most responsive to change that survives. That is absolutely right, but they have got to be the right changes.

"The owners of freeholds have to be understanding. They have to adjust their plans, because if they think they're going to get the same rates they did two years ago, they're living in a fools' paradise. Positive commercial input is the key. We need to ask these people what they want to see in the town. We want to encourage real shops which will do real business."

He added: "It is pointless competing with Westwood Cross. It has been a success, and congratulations to them. If it works, do more of it. That's what the town centre needs to do – find out what works and do more of it.

"Independent retailers are important. They are the ones who live here, work here, send their kids to school here. The big chains are the ones whose profits go to shareholders all over the world."

Mr Foley said there were six key factors which point to a bright future for Margate town centre.

He said: "We have 200 workers coming to Thanet to work on the £800 million offshore wind farm. They will spend money in our hotels, pubs and shops. Also the Turner Gallery, which will attract people with money in their pockets, a different crowd from the bucket and spade brigade. We have the high-speed rail link from December which will bring people down from London with money to spend.

"Thanet Earth brings in people from a number of areas. It is not just those who work there but all the associated people. For example, a delivery driver might stop for lunch in the town. We are expecting developments on the China Gateway within months. It will be another major point of sale for the region. We also have Kent International Airport. It has seen a 29 per cent increase in cargo in the first quarter of the financial year and in the medium term there could be people looking to re-launch commercial flights."

His suggestions for ways to invigorate the town centre include: "Move the market from Cecil Square – where it is taking up 30 or 40 parking spaces – to the High Street. That would increase footfall for a start; as would moving the post office into the High Street."

He added: "Why not make parking free on Saturdays? They do something similar in Dover where it has been successful. The council might lose some money – but how much money do empty shops bring in?

He added: "Margate has its strengths, we just need to play to them," and highlighted the railway station's proximity to the beaches and the Harbour Arm redevelopment as plus points. He said: "If you are going to use anything as an inspiration, use Brighton's Lanes. It works there and I think the same thing in Margate could be even more attractive. I am positive. I think we will get there, in time."

ROGER Gale, MP for Thanet North, said: "Westwood Cross has undoubtedly had an impact. Margate has a different problem from Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

"All three have been affected by Westwood Cross and most towns have suffered since the shift to out-of-town shopping centres.

"Margate is different because the residential catchment area is not next to the town centre. In Broadstairs people can walk to the shops from home, but Margate is spread out.

"It's as easy to get out to Westwood Cross as it is to get into Margate, and it's free to park, whereas it isn't in the town centre. These problems could and should have been foreseen. Westwood Cross was planned without thought about transport infrastructure or the effect on the High Street. We have to accept that we aren't ever going to have big retailers coming back into town centres. We need a fresh approach. My suggestion is to redevelop the upper and lower High Street as different animals. I think the council is on the right track. Where they have control, they are trying to ensure the place looks as attractive as possible and the empty shops do not look derelict. Of course it's not always possible and the River Island shop looks derelict because it has not had any TLC."

Mr Gale said he could see a turn in fortunes on the horizon, and envisaged a Margate which resembled the popular Brighton Lanes. He said: "The Turner Centre, which is only two years away, will have a dramatic impact. It has already seen the old town starting to come back to life. As the recession ends and with the Turner Centre, the hotels and restaurants, the redevelopment of the Winter Gardens, bars and cafés and boutiques, people will be coming in.

"We want to encourage small retailers in the upper High Street – the butchers, bakers, candlestick makers. Turn that into a retail centre. The lower High Street should be a pedestrianised leisure centre with bars, restaurants, cafés, galleries and antiques shops."

Mr Gale suggested the upper High Street could even be transformed into a secure Mall area, with locked gates and round-the-clock security.

OPTIMISM: Tory MP Roger Gale

He said: "There would need to be plenty of discussion about it, but it is worth exploring the possibility.

"And we have to review parking charges. The council is bound by law to make parking cost-effective. It's grossly unfair that Westwood Cross can have free parking and the town centre can't.

"I think there should be 20 minutes' free parking for people who want to pop into the butchers, for example, but I know it would be difficult to police.

"And if you had free parking the spaces would be taken by the people who work in the shops."

He concluded: "Nothing is going to happen quickly, but I do think all of this is achievable. There's no quick fix, but I'm optimistic that it will happen and the future can be very positive."

TRACEY Manley, the chief executive of Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce, said the problems affected towns across the county and were by no means limited to Margate.

She said: "Footfall is always the big issue. Lots of the town centre shops are independent retailers and it is those who are hit hardest at times like this. This is the area where you can really see the credit crunch hitting home.

BACK TO BASICS: Tracey Manley

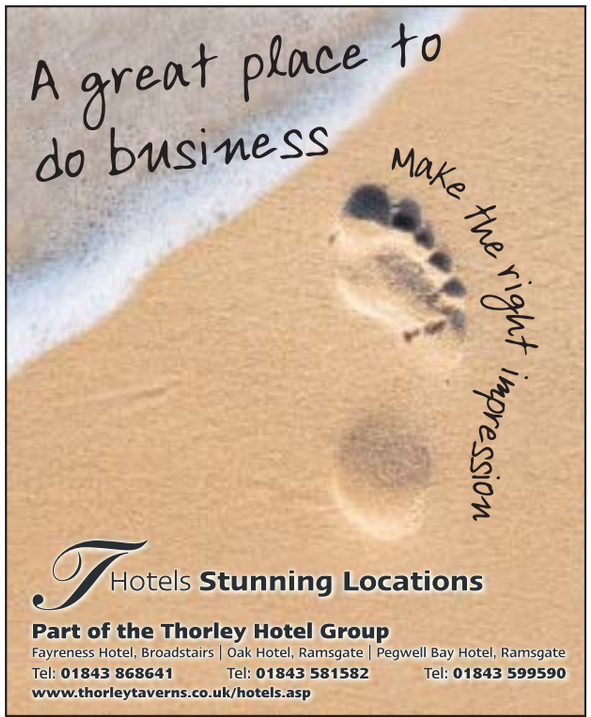
"People shop differently these days. These independent retailers need to make sure they are able to use their website to do business, just to keep up. People are still buying things, I don't think the amount they are spending has necessarily changed, but the way they are buying has.

"A lot of people will not necessarily go to the town to do their shopping but will stay at home and buy online."

Mrs Manley said she thought the answers may lie in going back to basics.

She said: "The planners and town centre managers need to look at how to get people into towns again. They need to go all the way back to look at the big issues, such as parking. There is nothing worse than boarded-up shops. They are there to be vandalised and they make everything look uncared for. They give a bad impression. I think doing something like giving local artists or groups access to the premises as a gallery or whatever could make a difference.

"The place would be used and would make it look vibrant. Schools or groups could use them, and it might get people coming in to see what is happening. And if people are coming in then they might be spending money."



problem like Margate?

LONG VIEW: The Plaza in Margate shows the town is not short on charm or delightful buildings

The national picture

THE British Retail Consortium (BRC) has predicted the numbers of empty high street shops will more than double this year. About 15 per cent of stores nationwide will be empty by the end of the year – up from seven per cent at the end of 2008.

Stephen Robertson, BRC director general, said: "High streets are the heart of communities and economies, providing jobs and essential services. They are a crucial part of our retail mix but many are in trouble, facing difficulties that began well before the recession. Some will flourish again as the economy recovers; others have to shape a different future as customers' needs change. But that cannot be left to chance. These processes have to be actively managed."

A BRC report states: "In many places, recession is accelerating a trend of decline that was already under way. The dangers associated with this deteriorating picture are clear.

"Vacant units are one of the most visible impacts of the economic downturn. Vacant units in communities are likely to further reinforce falling consumer confidence."

The report revealed some high streets had lost custom to neighbouring towns and out-of-town shopping centres, meaning they may never go back to being important shopping destinations.

However, it said that with "nurturing through this difficult period", the high street could yet have a bright future. Among its suggestions are:

- Focus on local character.
- Create attractive and well-maintained environments.
- Develop a unique identity.
- Improve transport links and parking, and channel parking revenue into improving facilities.
- Monitor economic health.
- Town centres need good design, making the most of heritage features or natural surroundings.
- Priority must be given to deterring crime and antisocial behaviour. Damaged property must be restored quickly.
- Government needs to avoid imposing new burdens and local authorities should use money responsibly and inclusively.

Windows of opportunity

SO WHAT is Margate doing to tackle the issue of empty shops? Earlier this year a new project was launched to brighten up the town.

The Windows of Opportunity scheme – led by Thanet District Council and supported by Waterbridge through the Unit Trust and the Margate Renewal Partnership – also seeks to find out what local people want to see in the shops in the future.

Regional artists have been creating fun, representative images of shops which could feature on the High Street using recycled materials to create large papier-maché pieces.

The works have been set into enclosed window displays in empty shops and lit to give maximum impact.

The former Carphone Warehouse in the town centre was used to produce the works, with the store also decorated with dogs, cats and fish and large heads.

Artists Emily Firmin and Justin Mitchell spent six hours a day, five days a week in the shop, working on images which have gone into other empty premises. Residents were also invited to give suggestions on what type of shops they would like to see.

Cllr Roger Latchford, cabinet member for culture and economy, said: "This is a superb scheme and a really creative way of stimulating interest in the future of Margate, while at the same time creating attractive and vibrant shop fronts. Surveys show window displays are one of the main reasons people go into shops to spend money, so we're using window dressing here to try and draw in new shopkeepers and focus them on what people really want to see in Margate.

"By gathering this information, we can then supply that to potential developers, giving them a good idea of the market they have here."

Ms Firmin said: "This isn't just about art and improving the appearance of empty shop windows, it's also about asking people what they want."

Another artist, Heather Sawney, said: "We've had a very positive reaction from the public.

"Having the art in the windows is no substitute for having new tenants for the shops, but at least it's a start."

Six months after the scheme was launched, Cllr Latchford told Kent on Sunday: "Windows of Opportunity has attracted a lot of attention, featuring on national TV and in national newspapers as well as in a German newspaper and the New York Times global edition."

He added: "So from our point of view, raising awareness of the project has been really successful and helped to improve the visual aspect of the High Street.

"There have been 17 window displays in the town and we are working to try and secure other empty shops to use."

Cllr Latchford said Margate was proving to be an inspiration to other towns faced with empty premises in their shopping centres.

He revealed: "We have been contacted by councils asking for assistance in getting similar projects up and running in their towns."

Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear

1909

100 YEARS AGO: Special trains were laid on and fans used cycles, motorbikes, wagonettes, a char-a-banc, private cars to get to the St Lawrence ground for the Canterbury Festival, only for it to bucket down, meaning fans saw just two-and-a-half hours play on the first day when Kent took on Middlesex.

It was described, with some understatement, as "a day of discomfort on bare benches" but Hutchings at least gave the crowd some entertainment, thrashing a quick 74.

It was clearly a good toss to win for Kent, who posted 278 on a wicket that deteriorated as the game went on.

Middlesex were promptly skittled for 78 in the first innings and 163 in their second, losing by an innings.

Hutchings' knock was enough to earn him selection for the final Ashes test at The Oval, alongside his county colleagues Carr, Frank Woolley and Colin Blythe.

1959

50 YEARS AGO: The spin-bowling crisis caused by Doug Wright's retirement in 1957 had become so acute that Kent were forced to hold open trials at St Lawrence.

Anyone aged between 16 and 24 was invited, provided they played for a school or club, though the county did also ask for letters of recommendation.

"Only those players willing to take up the game seriously and play throughout the season need apply," said manager Les Ames, who didn't sound like he was in a position to be too choosy.

"We are desperately short of spin bowlers and we feel that there must be some promising young spinners playing in school or club cricket somewhere who have never come to our notice."

1984

25 YEARS AGO: The late Bob Woolmer (pictured) caused controversy by publishing an autobiography in which he candidly admitted he regretted playing in Kerry Packer's revolutionary World Series tournament, but had no qualms about joining a rebel tour to South Africa, then still governed by the apartheid system.

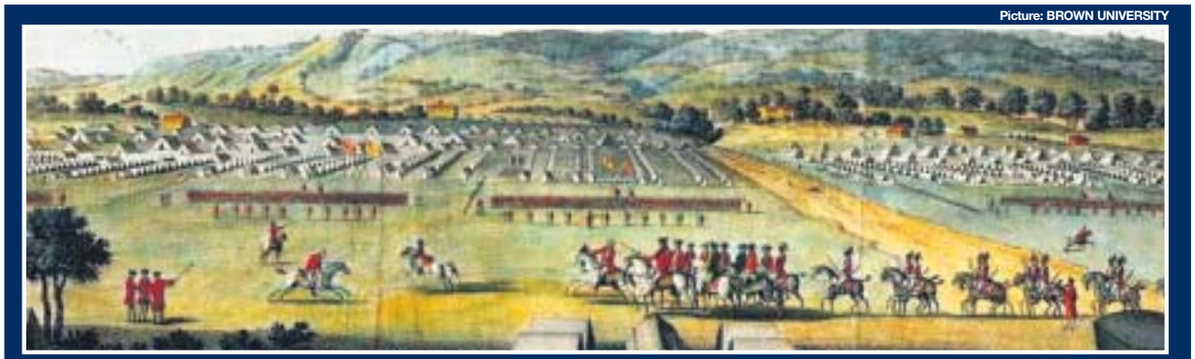
Woolmer, who had only just retired, said he would go back to the country "for nothing".

He subsequently emigrated there to begin his coaching career, but pointedly joined a so-called "coloured" club rather than a whites only team.

In the Kent League the future county captain Steve Marsh scored a brilliant ton for The Mote as they saw off Folkestone, while Alan Ealham made an unlikely appearance for the Kent Colts side at the age of 39.

Elsewhere trialist Dave Shearer scored twice for Gillingham in a pre-season victory at Fisher Athletic.

Picture: BROWN UNIVERSITY



HISTORIC SITE: Cox Heath, where the first recorded game of cricket took place, was taken over by the Army during the Napoleanic Wars

Market town is the birthplace of cricket

How Maidstone could stake claim to having staged first-ever game

WHEN the comedians Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis decided to write a sketch about laughable self-promotion by towns, they singled out 'Maidstone: Agricultural Capital of Kent' as the worst slogan of all, beating even 'Kidderminster: Carpet Capital of England.'

Yet the Borough of Maidstone was selling itself some way short as it can stake a claim to being the birthplace of organised cricket.

It's impossible to say when someone first decided to start hitting a ball around with a bat, but references to club-ball, creag, kricketing and others can be found dating back to the 12th century.

However, historians are agreed that the first-ever recorded game took place three miles south of the town centre, in what was then known as Cox Heath on May 29, 1646.

Going over old ground

By FRED ATKINS

Four 'gentlemen of Maidstone' William Cooper, Richard Marsh, Robert Sanders and Walter Francklyn were beaten by two Royalists, Thomas Harlackenden and Samuel Filmer, playing with a hooked bat, a ball carved out of wood and with runs tallied by making notches on a stick.

According to John Major's exhaustive history of the game, legal action was taken when a bet was laid on the game and the loser welched on a promise to hand over some candles to the winner.

Exactly where in Coxheath the game took place is difficult to pin down. The village no longer has a cricket team, though when it did it used a school playing field off Stockett Lane.

It's possible this is where the great candle scandal took place, but another clue comes from a Wisden article on cricket in wartime which reports that the Coxheath ground was taken over by the army during the Napoleonic Wars.

If this is the same ground depicted in a 1778 drawing by O'Neil, it probably isn't in the village itself. The way the horizon is drawn suggests a ground to the south of the village, probably nearer to the present home of Hunton Cricket Club.

At the time the 15,000 the English troops stationed there were waiting to be shipped off in a bid to prevent America revolting, meaning cricket was struggling to get a look in and the last recorded first-class game in Coxheath took place in 1789.

However, as slogans go 'Birthplace of Cricket' would probably bring in a few more tourists than 'Twinned with La Seguiniere.'

Montell going for relay gold

AFTER a year littered with injuries Montell Douglas is setting her sights on relay glory at the World Athletics Championships later this month.

The 23-year-old Bromley sprinter has struggled with a variety of problems since the Beijing Olympics and is relieved to be fit enough for selection for the World Championships in Berlin this month.

Douglas, who grew up in Chatham, was hoping to compete in the individual 100 metres, but the Great Britain squad selectors declined to enter anyone for the event. Instead she will focus on being part of a squad of six searching for 4x100m relay medal.

She told Kent on Sunday: "Being selected definitely makes up for all the injuries I have had. It has been a tough battle and even now my fitness is touch and go really.

"I am a little bit frustrated that I wasn't picked for the 100m, but it would have been even harder to take if the selectors had picked someone else. It means we can just focus on the relay and start building for 2012. We are focused on getting a medal at Berlin."

A year after being involved in a mix-up in the Olympic relay final, Douglas says the team have moved on.

"A lot of people have asked me about Beijing and think that myself and the relay team are always thinking about it. The truth is we are not. Yes it was massively disappointing, but these things can happen. We have dealt with it", she said.

Douglas and the Great Britain relay team begin the 4x100m heats on Saturday, August 22.

Picture: ADY KERRY

RELIEF: Montell Douglas is fit to race in the World Championships in Berlin

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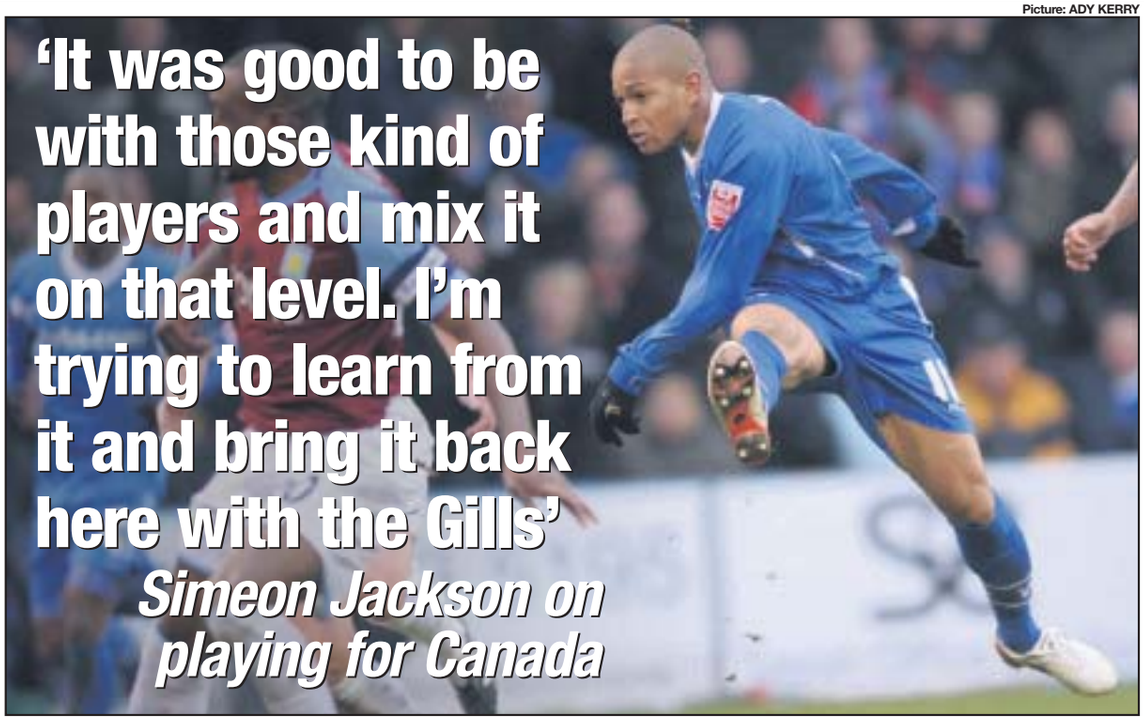
Picture: ADY KERRY



'It was good to be with those kind of players and mix it on that level. I'm trying to learn from it and bring it back here with the Gills'

Simeon Jackson on playing for Canada

Gills ace thrives on international stage

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

GILLINGHAM striker Simeon Jackson believes he is a better player after experiencing international football and is keen to use it to make an impact in League One.

The 22-year-old has enjoyed a whirlwind summer. Gillingham's top scorer saved his best form for last season the play-offs, scoring a brace to beat Rochdale in the semi-finals before claiming an injury-time winner in the Wembley final.

Within a week he scored his first goal on debut for Canada, which got him a call-up to the Gold Cup. Although he failed to add to his season's 22 goals in the United States, Jackson believes the time was well spent.

"It all happened quite fast," he told Kent on Sunday. "It was good to be with those kind of players and mix it on that level. I'm trying to learn from it and bring it back here with the Gills.

"I had the opportunity to play for Canada under-20s but the senior level is totally different. It's something I want to be a part of in the future and I'm going to work hard to try and stay in that mix."

Asset

Working hard is something the diminutive attacker has no problem with and his application in training has made Stimson a big fan. The Gills boss, who bought Jackson for £150,000 in January 2008, last season declared he would not accept £1 million for his prized asset.

At one stage last month it looked like his bluff would be called, with Championship side Leicester City reported to have made a £1.5m bid. Dismissed by Gillingham as 'paper talk', Jackson insists it does not affect him.

He said: "I only heard about it from a couple of friends who texted me trying to find out what was happening. Sometimes it's just speculation and I was away [with Canada] and focusing on doing what I had to do over there.

"You have to distance yourself from that because when you are doing alright for yourself, sometimes these things happen. You just have to stay grounded and concentrate on what you have to do."

With Gillingham so far unable to sign another goalscorer, the weight of responsibility to score regularly will fall on Jackson. With a career ratio better than a goal every two games he is determined to maintain his form from last season.

He said: "To have that [goals tally] again would be magnificent, I'm just going to get my head down and try to get results for the club."

Picture: EUFC

NEW CHAIRMAN: Duncan Holt says Fleet's status a as full-time club is safe for now

Fleet chief says club's full-time status is secure

NEW Ebbsfleet United chairman Duncan Holt has ruled out the possibility of the club returning to part-time football.

Holt, a former Ebbsfleet United board member before the internet takeover by MyFootballClub two years ago, was appointed club chairman this week following a vote by the Fleet's website owners.

The new chairman replaces former Conference chief executive John Moules, who left the north Kent club last month. Fleet have been hit by financial difficulties in the summer, which has seen the playing budget slashed and the majority of last season's squad leave.

Despite the budget cuts, Holt insists the club will not return to part-time football and believes the club are in a much better position ahead of the new season.

He told Kent on Sunday: "Three or four months ago, going part-time was talked about, but today we have no intention of going part-time.

Transfer

"The playing budget is slowly increasing to around £6,000 after the Michael Gash transfer and things are looking a lot better.

"I believe the worst is over now and after talking to clubs at the Conference meeting this week we are in a much better position compared to some other clubs."

With the financial problems stemming from less than half of the club's MyFC members renewing their subscriptions in February, Holt feels improvements need to be made to the MyFootballClub model.

He said: "It is always difficult when new concepts come around and it has certainly been a learning year for the club.

"We have seen the positives of the model, for example we raised £12,000 in a week from the members and I am sure clubs in our league would love to be able to do that.

"I think what needs to be done is we need to make the members feel more involved and give them better value for money. If we can harness what we have got at the club, I can see a very bright future."

Corinthian step into Slade Green's place after last-minute go ahead

THE Kent League have admitted a new club to the Premier Division after a last-minute Extraordinary General Meeting this week.

Following the vote at Lordswood on Wednesday, Corinthian, from Fawkham, near Meopham, will return a decade after withdrawing from the league to concentrate on youth football.

The club will take the place of Slade Green, who withdrew last month, and means the Premier Division will again have 16 teams when the season starts this afternoon.

The first step at the EGM was to change the name of Welling United's reserves to Corinthian.

The Wings have two reserve sides, on of which were in Division Two last season and played their home games at Corinthian's Gay Dawn Farm.

The bulk of that team, which was funded by Corinthian, will form the core of the renamed side, along with talent from Corinthian's under-18 set-up.

Making a change to the line-up three days before the start of the season has not been universally welcomed, but Kent League chairman Denise Richmond insists it was approved by the Football Association.

She said: "We have followed the rules. The FA told us that because we had satisfied promotion and relegation and had vacancies it's an internal matter."

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SIDE STRAIN: Ryan McLaren

All-rounder in race to be fit for Twenty20 finals

KENT could be left sweating over the fitness of all-rounder Ryan McLaren for Twenty20 finals day.

The South African left the field on Monday after suffering a side strain in the County Championship win against Derbyshire at St Lawrence.

It meant the 26-year-old missed the championship game with Middlesex that started on Wednesday and makes him a doubt for the trip to Northampton this week and the all-important T20 finals day at Edgbaston on Saturday.

The club were expecting feedback from a specialist at the end of this week and will be keeping their fingers crossed McLaren can play in Birmingham.

Coach Simon Willis said: "He had a side strain during the Derby game and he went to see a specialist on Wednesday and we'll know more later. He's probably struggling for a little while but obviously we will want him back sooner rather than later.

"Until we get the specialist's view we don't know. He was pretty stiff after the Derby game."

Damage

The county are hoping to nurse their bowlers through today's Pro40 clash with the Middlesex Panthers at St Lawrence and the championship game with Northampton that finishes just a day before finals day, with one paceman already on the sidelines.

After injuring a shoulder while fielding in a pre-season game, fast bowler Robbie Joseph did further damage to it in a Twenty20 game against Surrey at The Bit Oval in June. He returned in the championship game against Essex at Tunbridge Wells later that month, but suffered another injury keeping him out of the side.

Kent were hoping to give the Antiguan-born quick a run out in a 2nd XI fixture against Somerset at Beckenham on Thursday, but wasn't fit enough to play. It's hoped he will play for the second team against Essex next week, but the club are unsure as to when he will return in the championship.

Willis said: "It's the same shoulder, it's a little bit weaker so is probably a bit more damage than the first time around. We are not looking too far ahead with him at the moment it's just assessing him every day and setting him new little challenges and seeing how he comes through.

"It's not just a little injury, it's quite significant so we need to make a few decisions over the next couple of weeks."

FURTHER DAMAGE: Robbie Joseph

Picture: ADY KERRY

LAST HURRAH: Graham Ford wants to finish his five-year spell with Kent on a high

Quiet man Ford hopes to go out with a bang

Kent director of cricket aims to bow out with Twenty20 Cup and promotion to Divison One

By GLENN PEARSON

GRAHAM Ford isn't one to make bold predictions or contemplate fairytale endings.

The quietly spoken South African brings a close to his five-year association with Kent as the county's director of cricket at the end of the season, due to family reasons.

Before incoming head coach Paul Farbrace arrives, Ford can lead Kent to Twenty20 finals day glory on Saturday and help them back into Division One of the County Championship.

Yet, the 48-year-old former South Africa coach refuses to contemplate what the future holds, something that is likely to have enamoured him within the dressing room at St Lawrence since his arrival in 2005.

"I am never one to get caught up in long-term aims, I believe cricket is played one step at a time and you can't get too ahead of yourself," he told Kent on Sunday. "If I think about the five-year stay here, there has been a lot of wonderful highs that I will treasure and thankfully not too many lows.

"Hopefully there will be some more highs in store for the last couple of months. There maybe a wonderful end, but I'm not about to make any bold predictions."

It's been a tough season for the Kent coach who missed a month of the campaign after trouble obtaining a visa.

Difficult decision

Upon his return to the county in mid-May, Ford met with the club's cricket committee to inform them that he wouldn't be returning next season as he couldn't spend anymore time away from his family in South Africa.

That, Ford says, meant what would have been a difficult decision to weigh up, ended up being something he had to do.

"I had spoken to Graham Johnson, the cricket committee chairman, as soon as I returned. Basically I have got to take care of some issues back home, so unfortunately it was not one of those I could ponder over it was something I had to do.

"I have had a fantastic time and managed to work with a great bunch of cricketers and it has been nice working with a great captain. It was not something I had to make a decision about, it was something I just had to do."

It's unlikely, however, to be the end of Ford's association with the club. Farbrace, who is leaving a post as Sri Lanka's assistant coach to return to Kent on September 1, is keen to continue links with Ford and hopes to use him in a consultancy basis. Having brought the likes of Martin van Jaarsveld, Justin Kemp, Ryan McLaren and Wayne Parnell to Canterbury during his time, it makes sense.

Ford said: "I would love to stay and help in any way. I would imagine that with Kent being my club, there will always be a link but I think the that will only be sorted out once Farbs gets here.

"That's when discussions will take place. He will obviously have views about how he wants to run the operation and we have got to respect that. I think we'll sit down and have a chat once he gets here and I'm sure something will become more formal then."

England in with chance of World Cup spot, says Ash

ASHLEY Jackson has high hopes England can secure a place at next year's World Cup with a top-four finish at the EuroHockey Nations Championships later this month.

The Chatham-born midfielder, who will turn 22 during the tournament in Amsterdam, was selected in England's 18-man squad this week.

The top two from each group will progress to the semi-finals and guarantee them a place at the World Cup in India next March. Jackson believes England have a decent chance of progressing.

He said: "Austria came up from the B Division last year so we will hopefully get off to a good start against them. Then I think it's between us and Belgium to go through with Germany.

"If we make the semi-finals it is probably job done and we'd look on anything beyond that as a bonus."

Jackson, who plays club hockey in the Netherlands with HGC, goes into the tournament in good form.

He scored four goals in two warm-up games against India last week, taking his international tally to 15 goals from 27 caps.

The women's tournament runs alongside the men's, with England announcing their squad on Tuesday.

Natalie Seymour, who plays for Canterbury ladies, is expected to be included in Danny Kerry's line-up after the 22-year-old featured in every game at the Champions Trophy last month.

Seymour's team-mates Jenny Hall and Susannah Townsend are also in international action at the Junior World Cup.

Both featured in the three pool games in Boston, USA, with England progressing to the latter stages next week.

Picture: ADY KERRY

GOOD FORM: England's Ashley Jackson

King of Brands on his glorious reign

Race legend Minter says walking circuit backwards was secret to his dominance

By TOM HOWARD

WIMBLEDON has Roger Federer, the Tour De France has Lance Armstrong, but Brands Hatch belongs to Kent's motorcycle legend Derek Minter 'King of Brands'.

Born in Littlebourne, near Canterbury, in 1932, Minter became one of the most successful motorcycle riders in the country during the 1950s and 1960s. He earned success in the Isle of Man TT and across Europe, but most famously Brands Hatch.

Minter bought his first bike as a 16-year-old, but his career really took off a decade later when he became a professional racer.

In 1958 he announced himself on the scene by finishing fourth in the Isle of Man TT and two years later became the first man to lap the 37.7-mile course at an average speed of 100mph.

Unbeatable

While he enjoyed racing on the dangerous roads of the Isle of Man TT, his real love was for Brands Hatch.

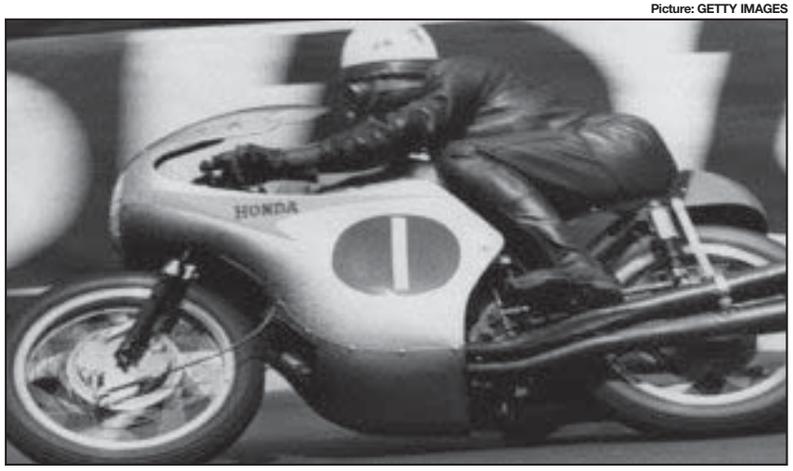
Minter, who won two British Championships, soon became the man to beat on the Kent circuit.

Legendary commentator Murray Walker dubbed him the 'King of Brands' after winning five races at the circuit in one meeting in 1962, a nickname which stuck.

Minter, now 79, told Kent on Sunday: "They called me the 'King of Brands' because I was a bit unbeatable. I always put up a good performance but the only thing I couldn't do was start well.

"I was always sixth or seventh at the first corner. I enjoyed that because I had to try and catch up instead of worrying about people behind you when you are in front.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES



SUCCESS: Derek Minter, one of our most successful riders and his beloved Brands Hatch (left), where he dominated during the 1950s and 60s

"I knew the circuit well and I used to walk round it backwards to judge the corners better and get a more direct route, which was my secret."

Minter's success at the circuit saw Brands Hatch launch the 'King of Brands' trophy race in 1965, which he duly won, receiving the trophy from pop star Lulu.

His achievements at Brands Hatch were officially acknowledged when the circuit named a straight on the grand prix circuit after him.

He said: "It is nice to be honoured with that but I didn't really do much of my overtaking along there, that was saved for the corners."

Minter, who still lives in the Canterbury area, suffered a brain haemorrhage in 2000 but has made a good recovery.

He still retains his passion for motorsport and will be an interested viewer today as the British Superbikes return to Brands to battle for his crown.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

NEXT MOVE: British Superbikes ace Leon Camier

Camier eyes step up to MotoGP next year

LEON Camier is considering a move to the lucrative MotoGP series for 2010 which would see him line up on the grid alongside the five-time world champion Valentino Rossi.

The Ashford-born rider, who has a commanding lead in the British Superbike Championship, is starting to look for a new deal for next season.

The 22-year-old has dominated the British Superbike Championship with 11 wins to his name before this weekend's meeting at Brands Hatch.

His success has turned heads in the superbike racing fraternity. Camier has admitted he would like to move to the World Superbike Championship, following an impressive wild card debut at Donington Park in June.

But with close friend Casey Stoner racing in MotoGP and with the chance to go up against a legend in Rossi, Camier has not ruled out a move to series.

He told Kent on Sunday: "Later this month it will be a lot clearer as to what I will be doing next season. World Superbikes is an option, but we will have to wait and see what other riders have planned.

"MotoGP is also an option but the only way I would go to the championship was if I could guarantee a ride on the right machinery.

"There are plenty of riders hoping to race in that championship so it would be difficult, but it is an option."

Log on to www.kentnews.co.uk to follow Camier's progress as he bids to make history at Brands Hatch this afternoon by breaking the record for most wins in a British Superbike season.

RECOVERING: Karen Stupples

Picture: ADY KERRY

Stupples hoping for strong finish after injury woe

KAREN Stupples is hoping for a strong finish to the season to rescue a frustrating year plagued by illness and fitness problems.

The 36-year-old, from Deal, plays the vast majority of her golf on the LPGA Tour in North America. For the first time in her 11-year professional career she has yet to record a top-10 finish this season, missing seven cuts in 14 tournaments.

Stupples' problems began in March when she felt unwell during a tournament in Pheonix.

She said: "I went to hospital but they didn't find anything and turned me away. I went back the next day in agony and they found a problem with my appendix. It was very lucky it didn't burst, but the surgeon got it out just in time."

Surgery

Ongoing problems with veins in her legs have also affected Stupples, restricting the amount of time she could spend practising.

She opted to have surgery to correct the problem, which is not expected to be completely cured until the end of the year.

The 2004 British Open champion missed the cut at this year's event last weekend, but there were encouraging signs in Thursday's first round at the Wales Ladies Championship of Europe. A three-under-par round of 69 put her among the leaders at the tournament, which finishes in St David's today.

Stupples is hopeful of recapturing something close to her best form before the end of the year.

She said: "I feel I'm just starting to hit some quality shots again and get back into the flow of tournaments. I still want to win tournaments this year. I still say I can win and that's what my goal needs to be.

"I'm hoping next year I will be leaner, meaner and ready to go, but I still think I can salvage something from this season."

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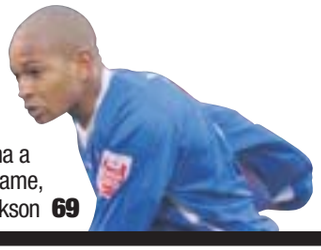

FOOTBALL
International arena a whole new ball game, says Simeon Jackson **69**

CRICKET
Graham Ford aims to leave Kent on a high note **70**

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

CONTACTS: But Paul Scally is only interested in long-term investment

'ARE YOU IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL?'

Scally's warning to potential Gills investors

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

PAUL Scally says he has several prospective investors who are interested in Gillingham, but will not agree to a deal with any of them until he is sure they have the club's long-term interests at heart.

The Priestfield chairman divides his time between Kent and Dubai, where his search for investment is centred. More than a year after he began looking for a financial partner in the region, Scally believes the move is starting to bear fruit, although he remains cautious.

"I have got some very strong and good contacts who are monitoring our progress and have taken a great interest in the club as well," Scally told Kent on Sunday.

"It's not just about grabbing the first person, it's about trying to form a relationship with these people and making sure if they do want to come in, it's for the right reasons and they want to do it for the long-term."

Following last season's promotion from League Two, the club have ambitions to return to the second tier of English football, where they spent five seasons until relegation in 2005. Ultimately Scally wants to achieve his long-held goal of moving from Priestfield to a modern new stadium.

Football clubs have become increasingly attractive to overseas businessmen, with the majority of new investment coming from the Middle East. While the prospect of a large injection of funds is attractive, Scally is in no hurry to jump on the bandwagon.

No panic

He said: "I think some clubs are sold out of desperation, not out of future planning or strategy. I'm not looking to sell the football club, I'm just looking for some help, but it has to be the right sort of help for the right reasons and with the right conditions. There's no panic and no rush for us to do that, we're quite comfortable as we are."

Despite promotion at Wembley in May, the Gills are yet to spend any money on transfer fees this summer. The club have so far missed out on bringing in a striker, with efforts to bring in Dagenham's Paul Benson and Charlton's Chris Dickson reportedly hampered by low bids.

Scally was unhappy at only making £200,000 from the Wembley play-off final, but says the club have spent large sums on wages this summer, particularly arranging new contracts to keep Andy Barcham, Curtis Weston and Simon King.

He said: "More importantly, the budget is the budget, and whether the money has come from Wembley or not we have increased the budget for this year.

"It includes players' wages, bonuses and conditions and we are paying a lot more to players in this division than we did last year. It's still being improved which is why we are able to bring players to the club, albeit with no fees involved."

With League One packed with big clubs such as Leeds, Southampton and Norwich, manager Mark Stimson believes mere survival would represent progress. Scally does not share the sentiment and is as confident as ever going into the new campaign.

He said: "You always go into a new season optimistic. I think you always want to go in and win the league.

"That's what we'll be trying to do this season, win League One and go into the Championship. There's only one way to be in football and that's positive."

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Picture: ADY KERRY

McLaren injury a blow for Spitfires

KENT Spitfires' plans for next weekend's Twenty20 finals day have suffered a blow after key all-rounder Ryan McLaren picked up an injury and is a doubt for the game.

The South African, who took a hat-trick in the 2007 final against Gloucestershire, is suffering with a side strain and remains a doubt for the semi-final against the Somerset Sabres on Saturday at Edgbaston.

FOR THE FULL STORY SEE INSIDE